

Accomplishments of the

FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, THREATENED and ENDANGERED SPECIES, and PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

BLM



FISCAL YEAR 2011

BLM MISSION

The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PLANT CONSERVATION

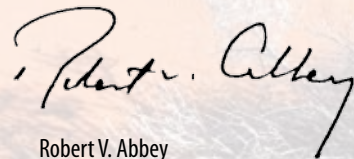
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages more than 245 million acres of public lands—all supporting a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants, including threatened, endangered, and “at risk” species. In fact, the BLM manages more wildlife and plant habitat than any other federal or state agency in the country. When authorizing land use activities such as recreation, livestock grazing, energy development, and forest management, the BLM must ensure the needs of wildlife, fish, and plants are taken into consideration. The BLM manages these resources in cooperation with state and other federal agencies. The BLM also works to improve the health of entire watersheds to sustain and enhance a variety of biological communities.



**DEAR PARTNERS, COLLEAGUES,
AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC,**

It is my pleasure to share the accomplishments of the BLM fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation programs. The stories and statistics in this report provide a glimpse of the broad-reaching work that was accomplished in fiscal year 2011. I encourage you to take some time and read through the stories that illustrate how the BLM is meeting part of its multiple-use mission under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The work accomplished is helping to provide for the conservation and sustainability of natural resources on America's public lands. All of the accomplishments described in this report, and those beyond its page limits, would not have been possible without the generous support and substantial efforts of our valued partners in conservation. Thank you for your continued support! With the BLM's goal to become the premier land management agency in the United States, I and the entire agency look forward to the accomplishments in the years to come.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



Robert V. Abbey
BLM Director





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BLM NATIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

The BLM manages lands that directly affect more than 117,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. Fish-bearing waters on BLM lands are diverse, ranging from isolated desert springs harboring populations of rare and unique fishes, to large interior Columbia River tributaries supporting salmon and resident fishes of exceptional regional and national value. These waters also support subsistence fisheries that sustain Native American cultural and traditional heritage, as well as fisheries providing recreational opportunities for the burgeoning human population of the Western United States.



The BLM fisheries program engages in substantive and proactive habitat conservation and restoration activities, mainly through collaborative approaches to watershed assessment and restoration realized through ongoing activities with the National Fish Habitat Partnership, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The BLM fisheries program's restoration activities are focused with the National Fish Habitat Partnership, which is a science-based, nonregulatory group of fisheries professionals, state and federal agencies, tribes, foundations, conservation and angling groups, businesses, and industries joined together to support the challenge of protecting, restoring, and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. The BLM is active with 9 of its recognized partnerships, which are located in the 12 western BLM states. These partnerships include the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, California Fish Passage Forum, Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, Driftless Area Restoration Effort, Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership, Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership, Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, and Western Native Trout Initiative.

The BLM fisheries program is closely aligned with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and focuses on research with the foundation's Freshwater Fish Keystone initiatives and restoration with the Bring Back the Natives program. The keystone initiatives provide the fisheries program with an opportunity to explore the status of high-priority aquatic species and their habitat to find the best conservation investments and to deliver the best conservation results for these imperiled species. The Bring Back the Natives program focuses on-the-ground efforts to restore, protect, and enhance native aquatic species to their historic range. Both of these programs have historically been important for the BLM fisheries program to ensure viable aquatic habitats remain on BLM-managed lands.

Aquatic invasive species are an increasing threat to native species, recreational opportunities, and the economy, especially in the Western United States where water resources are particularly precious. To address this issue, the BLM joined forces in 2008 with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and their Western Regional Panel. The task force is comprised of 10 other federal agencies and 12 ex officio



members representing government agencies joined to prevent, monitor, and control aquatic nuisance species. The foundation for this work is from the passage

of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, which, among other actions, authorized and provided general guidance for the development of state aquatic nuisance species management plans. The act enables governors to submit comprehensive management plans to the task force and, if approved, request federal assistance for up to 75 percent of the cost incurred to implement such programs. Since the fisheries program's involvement, several BLM offices have been active with individual state programs to combat the rising aquatic nuisance species threat to BLM lands. The BLM is currently working with a task force subgroup to update recreational

guidelines and field gear decontamination procedures which will help guide BLM national policy. Additionally, the BLM Washington Office fisheries program has been working with Wildlife Forever to develop aquatic invasive species informational advertisements for western state fishing regulation booklets and publications that focus on outdoor activities, such as hunting, fishing, and boating.

The BLM continued its efforts to combat aquatic invasive species on both local and national scales. As available, each state is provided annual funding for aquatic invasive species prevention and control projects. In fiscal year 2011, \$243,000 was distributed to the states, or approximately \$20,000 per state.

Some state's fisheries programs took on nonnative species control projects, such as bullfrog eradication in the Yellowstone River, completed by the Montana State Office in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey; Montana Natural Heritage Program; and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Other offices, like the Colorado State Office, assisted the State of Colorado in designing and distributing educational materials. Many offices, such as the Utah and Arizona State Offices, worked with respective state agencies to fund the implementation of aquatic invasive species plans, which included providing staff for inspection and decontamination stations. At recent interagency aquatic invasive species meetings, state agencies identified the BLM partnerships as vital for implementing the plans.



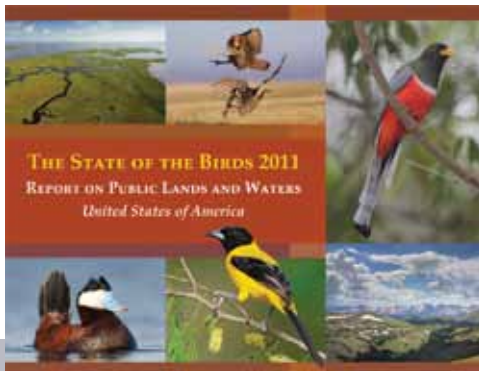
BLM NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

BLM-managed lands are vital to thousands of mammal, reptile, avian, and amphibian species. Managing more wildlife habitat than any other federal agency, the BLM's wildlife program maintains and manages wildlife habitat to help ensure self-sustaining populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife on public lands. This consists of maintaining and managing habitat for more than 3,000 species of wildlife dispersed over some of the nation's most ecologically diverse and essential habitat. In order to provide for the long-term protection of wildlife resources, the BLM supports numerous habitat conservation and restoration activities, many funded through partnerships with federal, state, and nongovernmental organizations.

State of the Birds 2011

The BLM participated in a multiorganizational effort in 2011 to assess bird species on public lands and waters. The 2011 effort resulted in a report, titled "The State of the Birds 2011: Report on Public Lands and Waters," which identifies agency-specific responsibilities regarding birds based on information about the time birds spend on particular state and federal lands. In addition, the report identifies (1) opportunities and challenges for each agency based on specific agency missions and (2) bird species and their habitats that occur on the lands the agencies manage.

Under the BLM's multiple-use mandate, bird conservation challenges are frequent and diverse. But results of the "State of the Birds 2011" report and subsequent followup work with partners through the North American Bird Conservation Initiative will help the BLM and other



agencies facilitate improved bird conservation. The BLM's 2011 bird accomplishments focused on the California condor, Le Conte's and Bendire's thrasher, greater sage-grouse, peregrine and aplomado falcons, seabirds, and arctic bird conservation at Teshekpuk Lake in Alaska.

Migratory Birds

In fiscal year 2011, the wildlife program focused a lot of time and resources on migratory birds. To start, the wildlife program continued to coordinate with BLM state offices, other federal agencies, and various nongovernmental organizations to implement a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect migratory birds while conducting various activities under the BLM's multiple-use mission. In addition, the wildlife program worked through the interagency Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds to identify data sources that can be used for decision support for agency actions that may require migratory bird conservation measures.

In partnership with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, the wildlife program helped build decision support tools related to migratory bird conservation and management, including the Species Assessment Database, useful for regional analyses of multiple bird species. The wildlife program also provided support for the development of best

management practices for grazing in winter grassland bird habitats in Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. The Baird's sparrow and Sprague's pipit, a federal candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, are included among the sensitive grassland bird species that will benefit from these best management practices.

Lastly, in anticipation of the 20th International Migratory Bird Day in spring 2012, the BLM entered into a 5-year agreement with Environment for the Americas to help provide information and materials about bird conservation and education from Canada to South America. Support and coordination of more than 30 BLM bird conservation and educational events are facilitated through this agreement. In addition to migratory bird conservation, this agreement helps facilitate implementation of the BLM's Youth Initiative and America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and BLM, Working Together Since 1984

The BLM and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have a long history of working together, since the group was founded in 1984. For the past 24 years, the foundation has cofunded more than 700 BLM projects in 10 western states and contributed more than \$6 million to protect and restore wildlife habitat. As of December 2010, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation financial contributions have helped the BLM enhance habitat on more than 1,274,000 acres of public land and permanently protect an additional 80,000-plus acres of important elk summer and winter range through land acquisitions and conservation easements. In 2011, the foundation contributed an additional \$174,260 in cost-share funds to 21 BLM projects covering 14 field offices in 6 states (California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming).

The BLM and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation reached a milestone in fiscal year 2011 by completing their 6 millionth acre of wildlife habitat conservation. The official 6 millionth acre was part of a 560-acre prescribed burn at Devil's Canyon, funded by the foundation and located on Cody Field Office lands in Wyoming. The 6 million acres include 1 million acres of permanent land protection projects and 5 million acres of habitat improvement projects. This unparalleled achievement is the result of the dedicated efforts of more than 178,000 Rocky Mountain



Elk Foundation members and the continued support and cooperation of private donors and public land management agencies.

Fiscal year 2011 marked several important milestones for the BLM wildlife conservation partnership program. In January, the BLM appointed its first full-time national liaison position dedicated to developing conservation partnership opportunities through improved coordination, collaboration, and cooperation. This position was made possible through a cost-share agreement between the BLM and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and is colocated with the foundation's Lands and Conservation Department at their international headquarters in Missoula, Montana. Work priorities for this program include improving the coordination of resources necessary to effectively conserve elk, other wildlife, and habitat across multiple land ownerships.

Partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The BLM continued its longstanding partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to invest federal and nonfederal funds to strategically address priority habitats and fish and wildlife species. Some of the fiscal year 2011 funds went toward projects that address BLM priorities, including Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery, restoring habitat for wintering grassland bird species, and Sonoran pronghorn habitat improvement.

Executive Order 13443 and the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Hunting and wildlife conservation have more in common than one might think. Executive Order 13443 directs certain federal agencies to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat. To accomplish this, the agencies work collaboratively with state governments and other partners to manage and conserve game species and their habitats on public lands. In 2010, the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council was created to serve as an official advisory group to provide advice about wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that benefit recreational hunting and wildlife resources and encourage partnerships among affected stakeholders. The BLM continued its work in fiscal year 2011 with the council, other federal agencies, and partners to improve

the management of public lands to facilitate enhanced recreational hunting opportunities and promote wildlife conservation on public lands.

Bats and White-Nose Syndrome

The wildlife program continued participating in "A National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats." The plan provides a framework for coordinating and managing the national investigation and response to white-nose syndrome, a devastating disease that affects several bat species in the United States. In 2011, the wildlife program provided considerable input on a national decontamination protocol for gear and clothing used in caves and abandoned mines. The widespread implementation of the protocol will help prevent the spread of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. The program also continued its participation in the plan's Steering Committee and Coordination Team to identify and prioritize research and management actions.

BLM Releases Wildlife Policy Supporting the Western Governors' Association

The wildlife program developed an instruction memorandum that was publicly released just after the close of fiscal year 2011 to provide policy guidance to all BLM field officials on the use of state- and regional-level data and maps that identify wildlife corridors and crucial habitat. The information is part of an effort by western states and the Western Governors' Association to inform land use, land planning, and related natural resource decisions on public lands. The regional-level information is called the Western Wildlife Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT).

BLM Featured in "Turkey Call" TV with National Wild Turkey Federation

In May 2011, the BLM and National Wild Turkey Federation filmed an episode of the federation's "Turkey Call" television show in eastern Montana. The show highlighted memorandums of understanding between the BLM and the federation, both nationally and specific to the BLM-Montana/Dakotas, and focused on habitat enhancement projects. In addition, the show featured turkey hunts with the BLM-Montana/Dakotas state director, chief conservation officer of the federation, and the BLM liaison for the federation on BLM-administered lands.





BLM NATIONAL PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM*

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land that consist of more than 50 ecoregions. These breathtaking western landscapes are defined by the native plant communities that exist there and provide Americans with their sense of place. The blanket of sagebrush resonates with people in the Great Basin ecoregion; the extensive acres of pinyon and juniper trees define the Colorado Plateau; lush evergreen trees help identify coastal landscapes; the saguaro cactus characterizes the Sonoran Desert; and the Joshua tree lets one know they are in the Mojave Desert. In addition, these native plant communities are the foundation of the BLM's multiple-use and sustained yield principles that include maintaining ecosystem services and providing recreational and commercial opportunities, conserving habitat for fish and wildlife, and managing unique landscapes, such as wilderness areas.

Partnering Across America for Plants

The BLM plant conservation program is working with more than 500 partners across the United States to bring American native plants to the forefront of management and conservation of BLM lands. The program works across the Western United States and in the scattered public lands

in the Eastern States on all aspects of plant conservation: native seed collection, rare plant conservation, native plant community restoration, mentoring interns, native plant materials development, and educating the public. These activities could not be accomplished without the cooperation of the program's partners, ranging from universities and industry to nonprofits and local governments.

Fiscal year 2011 was a busy year for the BLM plant conservation program

as significant contributions were made to support native plant communities and sustain wildland health. The activities of the program align with DOI initiatives, including those for climate change, the Youth Initiative, America's Great Outdoors, Native American Nations, and the New Energy Frontier.

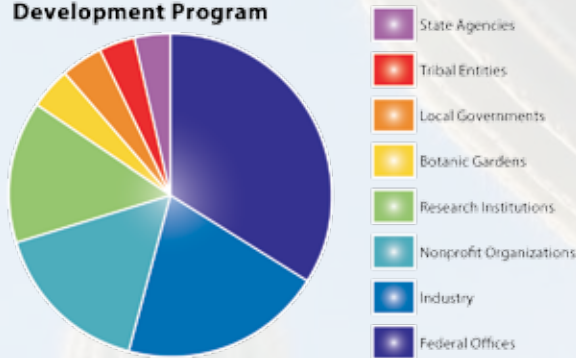
Climate Change

Climate change is one of this nation's most pressing problems, and the BLM plant conservation program has taken a leading role in developing native seed for restoration and fire rehabilitation to respond to the changing climate. The native plant materials development program is a private sector enhancement initiative with a mission to increase the quality and quantity of native plant materials available for restoring and supporting resilient ecosystems.

The Seeds of Success program is the wildland collection arm of the native plant materials development program, and in 2011, an additional 1,500 seed collections were made, bringing the total Seeds of Success native seed collections to more than 14,000. Seeds of Success is a safeguard for species facing habitat loss and fragmentation through climate change. Long-term conservation seed banking provides a cost effective method to address species and habitat loss. The uncertainties associated with climate change make the restoration of ecosystem resiliency through seed banking and native plant materials development a vitally important adaptation strategy for natural resource management and conservation.



Partners Working with the Native Plant Materials Development Program



The BLM plant conservation program achieved success in fiscal year 2011 by accomplishing the following:

- Co-chaired the Grassland, Shrubland, Desert, and Tundra Technical Team for the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Developed a seed usage survey to gather information to understand how the BLM procures, stores, and uses seed.
- Developed a regional multiagency contract with 10 native seed growers in 4 western states to increase native grass and forb seed for restoration efforts in all western states. This new contract will be used by the BLM and other federal agencies to produce locally collected, source-identified native plant material for restoration and rehabilitation.
- Initiated quarterly webinars with American Seed Trade Association members and other native seed growers.

Youth and America's Great Outdoors

The BLM plant conservation program is employing, educating, and engaging America's youth through a variety of activities. Specifically, the program received a \$1.25 million grant from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to collect native seed in 2010 and 2011. The BLM awarded the grant to the Chicago Botanic Garden's Conservation and Land Management Internship Program, which employed 54 interns from 27 states. The interns were trained in the Seeds of Success protocol and were placed in BLM offices throughout the West. The grant was completed in 2011 with 2,000 seed collections made from public land, including National Landscape Conservation System units and renewable energy focal areas.

One program intern, Emily Capelin, noted in a blog entry, "The diversity of my experience has been incredible, far exceeding any expectations I had of my internship. I've flown over the stunning Brooks Range of Alaska, stood at the feet of glaciers, watched grizzlies grazing on meadow sedges and grasses, and recently collected seeds for the future environmental restoration of the largest working platinum placer mine in North America."

The plant conservation program is also educating youth on the outdoors through the development of a high school curriculum with the Institute for Applied Ecology, entitled "From Salmonberry to Sagebrush: Exploring Oregon's Native Plants," which was developed for use nationally. More than 400 teachers have been trained to use this curriculum. In addition, the BLM-California Surprise Field Office

is working with high school students to collect, germinate, and grow bitterbrush, a Great Basin native plant. The grown plant materials are used to restore sage-grouse habitat.

Native American Nations

The BLM sponsored the Society for Ecological Restoration's 2011 World Conference on Ecological Restoration. The conference focused on reestablishing the link between nature and culture. The plant conservation program, with the BLM-Nevada Carson City District Office, developed a special session about native plant community restoration and cultural revitalization that included five presentations representing nine Native American tribes from California, Oregon, and Nevada.

New Energy Frontier

The plant conservation program is working with its partner NatureServe to develop climate vulnerability indices for more than 115 cactus species in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts. The vulnerability index assesses a species' exposure and sensitivity to climate change by evaluating several factors. The species undergoing evaluation occur in solar energy areas where the BLM is ensuring sustainability while developing renewable energy. Scientists from Northwestern University are also working with the BLM to develop species distribution models under various climate change scenarios for more than 400 native plant species found on public land. The data from these scientific studies will assist the BLM in making well-informed land management decisions regarding renewable energy for the future.



BLM NATIONAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

The BLM manages habitat for more than 240 wildlife and plant species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and numerous species identified as candidates for listing under the act. An even greater number of rare and sensitive species depend on the public lands, including birds, frogs, butterflies, fish, mammals, and about 800 species of rare plants. Rare and sensitive species are not federally listed as threatened or endangered, but they warrant special management attention to keep them from becoming listed in the future.

The BLM threatened and endangered species program's long-term vision is to achieve species recovery by maintaining functioning ecosystems and restoring habitat so that protection under the Endangered Species Act is no longer required. The program also provides support for the conservation of nonlisted rare plant species with the goal of avoiding the need to list them in the future. The targeted investment in recovering species meets a desired goal of sustainability and ecological integrity on BLM lands but also begins a shift from focusing on reactionary efforts in meeting regulatory obligations to being proactive stewards of the land.

As more species are recovered, there will be less of an administrative,



regulatory, and financial burden on the BLM. Through time, the monies used to consult on these species will be available to fund actions that will recover species, which is a shared goal of several of the Department of the Interior sister agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Fund

To achieve the long-term program vision of species recovery, the BLM Washington Office has launched a funding initiative which supports projects that target key recovery actions for federally listed and candidate species. The initiative, called the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Fund, was launched in 2010 and awards approximately \$1.5 million annually, on a competitive basis, to primary recovery actions that culminate in a delisting or downlisting of a threatened or endangered species or removal of a species from candidate consideration.



In the first 2 years of the initiative, the BLM has allocated \$2.58 million toward recovery projects for 31 species. The first success of this strategic effort was the delisting of the Maguire daisy in fiscal year 2011. Several other species benefiting from this initiative and on a short track to recovery are the Inyo California towhee, San Benito evening primrose, Lane Mountain milkvetch, and Jones' cycladenia.

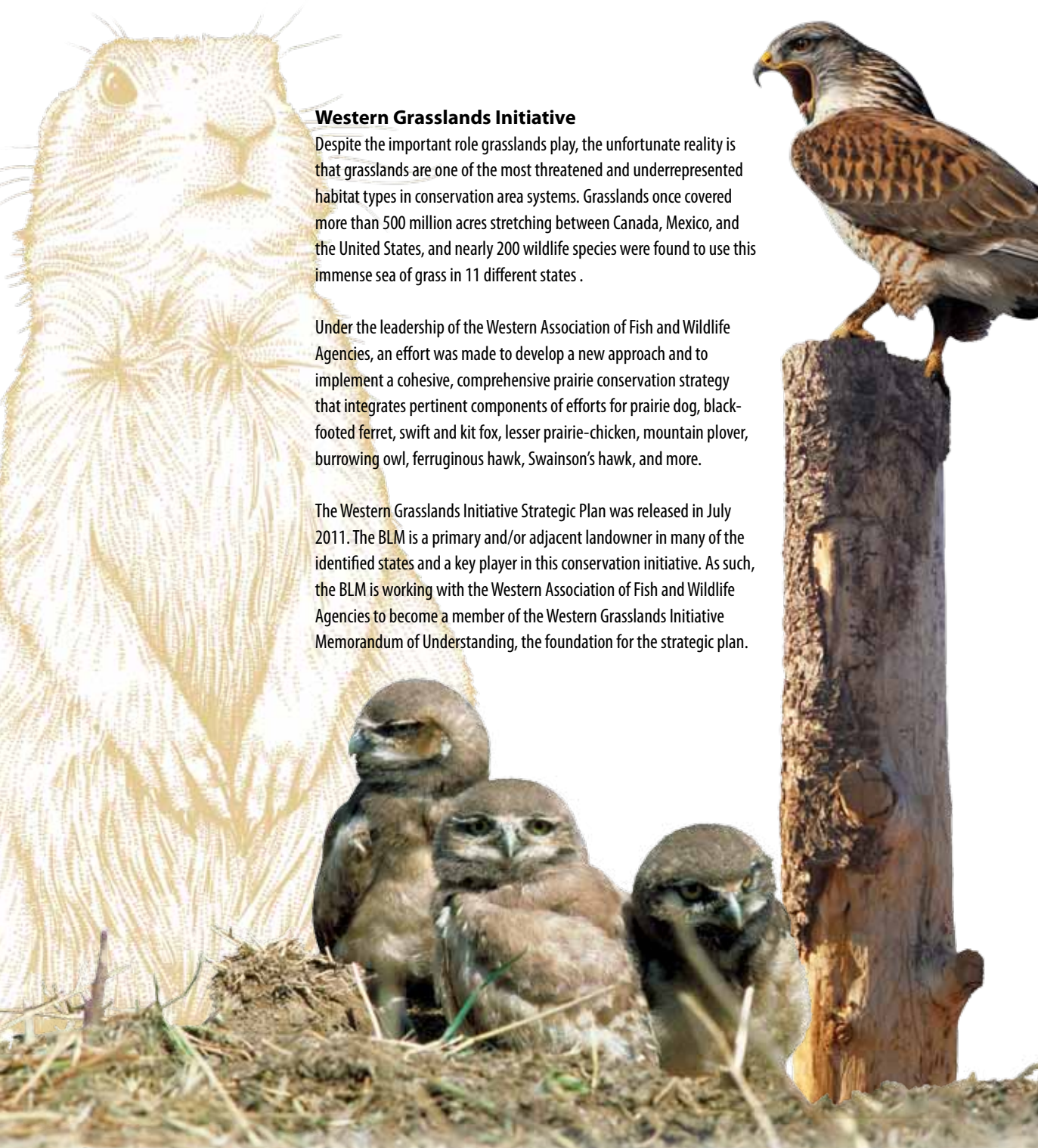
The Maguire daisy grows only in Utah and occurs primarily on BLM, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service lands. With \$120,000 awarded through the recovery fund, the BLM enhanced inventory and monitoring programs and implemented measures to eliminate threats from grazing and off-highway vehicle use. These funds were also instrumental in expanding surveys of the daisy in Calf Canyon, extending the count to a couple hundred more individuals, from just two occurrences in 2008. Additional populations continue to be found on BLM lands. Furthermore, these survey efforts documented that the populations are connected by habitat throughout the range of the species; whereas before, the populations were perceived to be disjunct. All of this information was considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and prompted the action to delist the plant. Local collaboration amongst BLM-Utah state and field offices with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was instrumental in the recovery of this species.

Western Grasslands Initiative

Despite the important role grasslands play, the unfortunate reality is that grasslands are one of the most threatened and underrepresented habitat types in conservation area systems. Grasslands once covered more than 500 million acres stretching between Canada, Mexico, and the United States, and nearly 200 wildlife species were found to use this immense sea of grass in 11 different states .

Under the leadership of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, an effort was made to develop a new approach and to implement a cohesive, comprehensive prairie conservation strategy that integrates pertinent components of efforts for prairie dog, black-footed ferret, swift and kit fox, lesser prairie-chicken, mountain plover, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, and more.

The Western Grasslands Initiative Strategic Plan was released in July 2011. The BLM is a primary and/or adjacent landowner in many of the identified states and a key player in this conservation initiative. As such, the BLM is working with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to become a member of the Western Grasslands Initiative Memorandum of Understanding, the foundation for the strategic plan.

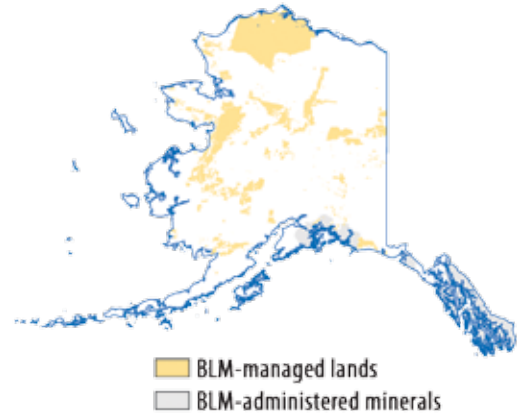


Black-Footed Ferret Recovery

The BLM has been heavily involved in the Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Team's executive committee, which oversees many approaches to conserving this federally endangered species. Efforts include the development of a sylvatic oral plague vaccine to protect ferrets and their prey, the prairie dog, against plague infection. The BLM continues to offer assistance in providing locations to implement the safety and efficacy trials for the vaccine's use in the field. The BLM also continues to increase its involvement in identifying appropriate areas where prairie dog expansion or recolonization can take place, with the ultimate goal of black-footed ferret reestablishment from increased prey availability.



ALASKA



ALASKA STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	28
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	255
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	165
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$141,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	479
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	2,389,000
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	8
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	4
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	960,000
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	22
Number of restoration projects using native plants	3
Number of native plant seed collections	81
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	5
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	3
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	28

Fisheries Research in Alaska

BLM-Alaska fisheries personnel, while working with numerous partners, completed diverse inventories, monitoring, and research projects on a subset of BLM-Alaska's 96,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and 2.6 million acres of lakes.

In the Anchorage District, the BLM fisheries staff used radio telemetry to monitor the use of overwintering, summer feeding, and spawning



habitat by rainbow trout within the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River watershed. The staff also participated in a multiagency study that measures Chinook salmon returns to the river. In addition, a resistance board weir was installed in the Unalakleet River to determine salmon escapement, run timing, and age-sex-length composition. This will help fishery managers evaluate how fishing restrictions affect the quality of the salmon spawning escapement in the watershed. The district's projects help to ensure that adequate numbers of salmon are available for subsistence, commercial, personal-use, and sport fishing demands.

In the Fairbanks District, the BLM fisheries staff investigated Arctic grayling and ninespine stickleback diets and monitored habitat at a network of lakes and streams on the Arctic Coastal Plain in the National Petroleum Reserve to assess resource impacts. The staff monitored juvenile arctic grayling populations in a recently reclaimed placer-mined

stream and a similarly sized, nondisturbed stream within the Harrison Creek watershed, Eastern Interior Field Office. Research on inconnu (a large migratory whitefish), spawning abundance, and migration timing in the Sulukna River was published to help fishery managers develop recommendations for subsistence and sport fish harvest management strategies. Finally, several studies were completed to document spawning locations and determine abundance and habitat utilization by Dolly Varden char in the Squirrel and Kivalina River drainages.

Collaborative Projects Ensure Sustainable Wildlife Populations and Help Rural Alaskans

Living in a difficult climate, rural Alaskans still rely on the land for food and materials. Their hunting, trapping, wood gathering, and berry picking are a way of life that the

Yup'ik call "Upterrlainarluta," which means "always getting ready." BLM-Alaska supports this way of life through the Federal Subsistence Management Program, which was established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The program ensures that rural Alaskans receive priority to wild resources on federal public lands, ahead of other consumptive uses.

BLM-Alaska administers nearly 75 million acres of public lands. This huge land base with its complex animal movements, land ownership patterns, and public involvement principles necessitates the BLM to work with other stakeholder partners to better understand and manage subsistence needs and resources.

One great example of these partnerships is the Fortymile Caribou Herd Monitoring Project. The Fortymile caribou herd is a major subsistence resource for Eastern Interior Alaskans. After the herd plummeted to less than 1 percent of its peak population, adaptive



management plans were developed to recover the herd. For nearly 12 years, the BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game have collared and monitored hundreds of caribou with telemetry technology. Today, this herd is recovering, thanks in part to careful monitoring of the herd and regulated harvest.

In 2010, the BLM purchased 60 global positioning system (GPS) satellite collars to monitor herd distribution, population size, and habitat use without being constrained by foul weather, aircraft availability, or declining budgets. In 2011, the BLM helped fund the costs of retrieving and analyzing the data. The BLM is committed to this partnership and plans to continue the project.

Another great partnership example is the Western Alaska Moose Monitoring Project. The BLM is working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to examine seasonal movements and habitat use of moose. The project was prompted by discussions with local elders regarding their traditional knowledge of moose. In 2010, the three agencies pooled resources to purchase and deploy 54 GPS satellite collars. This 3-year study will provide location data and improve estimates of how many cows have twins, one indication of habitat quality. Collar data also will increase the accuracy of population estimates by providing a measure of moose that were present but not observed during aerial surveys. The BLM and its partners will share data from this project with residents of the area through school programs and a subsistence newsletter in upcoming years.

Native Plant Conservation Grows with BLM-Alaska and Partners

BLM-Alaska continued its relationship with the Alaska Natural Heritage Program through the Seeds of Success program to collect native plant seeds. Ninety-seven different species were represented in 125 collections completed by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program botanist,



two Chicago Botanic Garden interns, and various partners from agencies, companies, and academia. The collections were made in nine ecoregions.

While scouting collection sites and gathering seed, populations of rare plants (19 species) and alien plant infestations (28 species) were encountered. Also, a seed collection of soft phacelia—a species ranked as vulnerable to imperiled regarding risk of extinction—was made because the population was about to be obliterated due to road work.

BLM-Alaska continues its relationship with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' Plant Materials Center. In 2011, the center continued to increase the initial 11 species selected for seed increase for placer-mined areas in the Alaska Interior in need of revegetation. The center also continued to perform seed cleaning for all native plant seed collections, local seed storage, and additional coordination with the Agriculture Research Service for long-term germplasm storage.

Spectacled Eider Sea Ducks Signal Satellites while Swimming and Sitting on Sea Ice

Spectacled eiders are sea ducks that spend most of their lives in the frigid waters of the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. Their short time in terrestrial habitats—less than 3 months each year—is crucial to produce young that can survive their first harsh winter at sea. In 1993, the species was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.



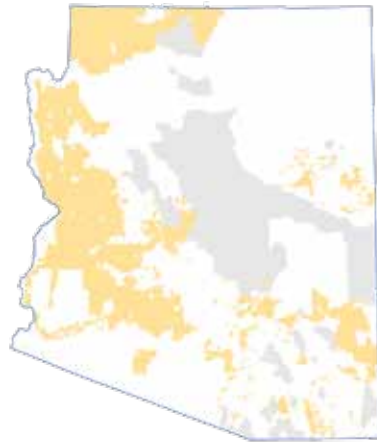
BLM-Alaska manages eider breeding habitat in the 23 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve. Since 1993, BLM-Alaska has collaborated and cooperated to collect critical data on this elusive species. The interagency satellite telemetry project is a great example of one such effort. In 2009, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and BLM-Alaska signed an agreement outlining goals and roles for studying the eiders with satellite technology. The USGS is leading the project, while the BLM assists with funding and field work. In 2011, biologists from the BLM Arctic Field Office and USGS Alaska Science Center teamed together for 12 consecutive field days, setting mist nets over tundra ponds in the remote wilds of northern Alaska. They caught 54 hen and juvenile eiders from 12 different broods.

The biologists then transported the eiders by helicopter to a base camp, where wildlife veterinarians surgically implanted a small transmitter into each bird. When the ducks sufficiently recovered from their surgeries, they were transported back to the original capture sites and released together as intact families. By then, the transmitters were already sending information to satellites orbiting the earth. The satellites relay the data to ground receivers, and the biologists can then download it for analysis. The data will allow the biologists to track the movements, distribution, and habitat use of spectacled eiders throughout the year.

Since 2009, 84 eiders have been implanted with transmitters. The agencies will use the information to develop effective conservation measures and promote recovery of the species. One example showcasing the use of the data occurred in January 2012. The real-time eider locations were used to help navigate a tandem ice breaker and fuel tanker away from the eiders during a fuel delivery to Nome, Alaska. The data will also enable the BLM to conscientiously plan and permit activities, such as oil and gas development, that fit within the agency's multiple-use mission.

Many partners have also contributed logistical and financial support to this project, including the North Pacific Research Board, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ConocoPhillips-Alaska, Mesker Park Zoo and Botanical Garden, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ARIZONA



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals

ARIZONA STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	15
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	36
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	14
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	1
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	2,536
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$75,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	227
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	549,022
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	32
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	469,695
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	116
Number of restoration projects using native plants	86
Number of native plant seed collections made	90
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	25
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	1
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	2
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	2

removal of these nonnative fish species will benefit four BLM sensitive fish species: longfin dace, speckled dace, Sonora sucker, and desert sucker.

So far, nonnative removal efforts at Bonita Creek appear to be promising with a noticeable reduction in larger size classes of green sunfish, which is resulting in increased recruitment of native fish species. The field office will continue to evaluate the benefits to native fish species as a result of mechanically removing nonnative fish species.

The field office conducted another mechanical removal using baited minnow traps and Promar collapsible traps in a tributary to Aravaipa Creek in the Horse Camp Canyon. Riparian areas in Horse Camp Canyon are considered the primary source of green sunfish contamination into Aravaipa Creek. A total of 582 green sunfish were captured and removed from five of six pools sampled. The elimination of this source of green sunfish will benefit the BLM sensitive longfin dace, speckled dace, Sonora sucker, and desert sucker.

Nonnative fish were also mechanically removed from native fish habitat at one site in the San Francisco River. A total of 400 red shiner, 18 channel catfish, 17 flathead catfish, and 3 fathead minnow were removed, benefitting the BLM sensitive longfin dace and desert sucker.

Lastly, a total of 77 nonnative green sunfish and 245 fathead minnows were removed from the Little Colorado River above Lyman Lake during annual fish monitoring. Their removal will benefit the BLM sensitive speckled dace, bluehead sucker, and Little Colorado sucker.

Safford Field Office Removes Nonnative Fish

The BLM-Arizona Safford Field Office focused several efforts on removing nonnative fish species from rivers, creeks, and tributaries to benefit BLM sensitive species and to increase native fish species.

In the summer of 2011, nonnative fish were mechanically removed from the upper and lower Bonita Creek with help from the University of Arizona's Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and Trout Unlimited. A total of 2,245 nonnative green sunfish, 9 yellow bullhead, 333 fathead minnow, and 2 western mosquitofish were removed. The



BLM and Audubon Arizona Partner to Teach Students about Fish, Wildlife, and Stream Ecology

BLM-Arizona plays a large role in the River Pathways program, a partnership between Audubon Arizona, the BLM, and Phoenix Union High School District that brings the study of riparian ecology, wildlife and fish habitat, and resource management to high school classrooms. The program also provides urban youth with opportunities to experience riparian areas at the Rio Salado Audubon Center and on public lands in the Hassayampa Field Office.



Audubon staff and teachers from the Phoenix Union High School District, one of the largest and most diverse high school districts in the nation, created a 1-week riparian ecology and resource management curriculum module that can be inserted into a variety of courses. Students then receive instruction on BLM Technical Reference 1737-23, titled "Multiple Indicator Monitoring of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation," at the Rio Salado Audubon Center in downtown Phoenix.

The curriculum culminates with high school students visiting BLM lands to collect data with Audubon and BLM staff. Also through this partnership, Audubon leads high school interns on riparian bird surveys on public lands and provides interns the opportunity to help BLM staff with monitoring, surveys, and other hands-on stewardship projects.

Arizona Plants Include More than Saguaro

In the area of plants, BLM-Arizona focused efforts on collecting, documenting, and conducting monitoring for rare, sensitive, and endangered plant species.

Staff from the Arizona Strip Field Office inventoried 1,000 acres for a new, rare plant species, Poverty Mountain breadroot, and they collected specimens of Nile's wild buckwheat, another new, rare sensitive plant species. Staff also surveyed the rim of Kanab Creek for the Grand Canyon goldenbush plant species.

In the Kingman Field Office, staff surveyed 500 acres in Missouri Spring in the Mount Wilson Wilderness Area for the sensitive plant species two-color beardtongue. Also, a weed removal project for Maltese star-thistle

was developed, and monitoring was conducted on the endangered Arizona cliffrose.

Lake Havasu Field Office staff documented new colonies of a sensitive plant species, scaly sandfood, during inventories of more than 1,500 acres on the western Cactus Plain.

For the sensitive Acuña cactus, Phoenix Field Office staff found one new subpopulation of 10 plants in the Coffeepot Mountains vicinity during a 1,500-acre inventory. The staff also recorded the sensitive plant species giant sedge during a field trip to the Hells Canyon Wilderness.

Phoenix Field Office staff documented disjunct organ pipe cactus in the Sand Tank and Javelina Mountains, as well as the first record of elephant trees on Javelina Mountain.

Safford Field Office staff inventoried 1,000 acres in the Safford area for sensitive plant species, and they conducted monitoring of the endangered Peebles Navajo cactus.

Lastly, Tucson Field Office staff conducted surveys for the endangered Huachuca water umbel at



Empire Cienega Ranch and documented new colonies of giant sedge during a 500-acre inventory of the area.

Endangered Species Recovery in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

In fiscal year 2011, one of BLM-Arizona's efforts included reintroducing aquatic endangered, threatened, candidate, and BLM sensitive species.

After completing project planning and decisionmaking under the National Environmental Policy Act, the cooperative reintroduction of seven aquatic species at six spring sites began at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The species selected for reintroduction include the desert pupfish, Gila topminnow, and Huachuca water umbel (endangered species); Chiricahua leopard frog (threatened species); Mexican garter snake (candidate species); and Sonoran mud turtle and longfin dace (BLM sensitive species).

The project began with the planting of Huachuca water umbel in three separate locations in December 2010. This was a cooperative effort with the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca and the Desert Botanical Garden. In August 2011, desert pupfish were released at two sites. Then in October 2011, Gila topminnow were released at the same two desert pupfish sites and one additional site. This effort was cooperatively undertaken by the BLM, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chiricahua leopard frog reintroductions and additional fish transplants are scheduled for September 2012. Releases of the Mexican garter snake and Sonoran mud turtle will follow the establishment of robust populations of fish and leopard frogs.



CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	32
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	71
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	137
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	4
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	129,239
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$2,425,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	940
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	227,346
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	342
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	10
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	154,322
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	924
Number of restoration projects using native plants	217
Number of native plant seed collections	609
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	112
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	20
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	28

8.5 miles of road have been decommissioned, and 16.3 miles of road have been upgraded on BLM lands in the watershed.

In 2011, \$75,000 dollars in fisheries and riparian funds were earmarked to the Arcata Field Office to continue road restoration work. The field office treated dispersed sites across 3 miles of road, which will help reduce the amount of sediment entering Redwood Creek.

Wildlife Highlights from Redding Field Office

During fiscal year 2011, the Redding Field Office engaged with multiple program partners on project planning, monitoring, and implementation for aquatic and terrestrial habitats on public lands. The following bullets provide a brief summary of project highlights.

- The field office assisted with population monitoring and translocation of Pacific fishers, a member of the weasel family in danger of extinction, with the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sierra Pacific Industries.
- The field office and partners contributed to multiple implementation and planning efforts to affect the recovery and restoration of Clear Creek, Sacramento, and Trinity Rivers and their associated species.
- Within the Sacramento River Bend Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the wetland and pond complex for waterfowl and other species was enhanced through maintenance to improve water delivery efficiency, invasive species control, and development of a

Arcata Field Office Continues Watershed Restoration for Lacks Creek

The BLM manages approximately 60 percent of Lacks Creek, a 19-square-mile watershed in northwestern California in the Redwood Creek drainage. The watershed has been the focus of extensive road-related restoration activities designed to reduce sediment inputs into Redwood Creek—a tributary to the Pacific Ocean supporting federally listed salmon and steelhead.

Road assessment efforts have identified approximately 93 miles of roads in the watershed with the potential to deliver approximately 196,000 cubic yards of eroded material. From 2007 through 2010,



Succession of dips to promote frequent road drainage.



Log stringer culverts removed from Lack's Creek drainage.



Channel after log culvert removal.

new pond. Additionally, by modifying the hydroperiod to mimic a natural vernal pool system, one of the wetlands now hosts a threatened and endangered species, slender Orcutt grass. Three new wildlife guzzlers were also established to provide water in dry, upland areas.

Sage-Steppe Habitat Restored for Wildlife and to Prevent Nonnative Plant Growth

The Surprise Field Office and Surprise Valley High School united in 2011 to grow native plants and shrubs to restore wildlife habitat and forage. The students involved in the BLM Bitterbrush Restoration Project grew locally collected antelope bitterbrush seeds to produce 1-year-old bitterbrush seedlings. These plants will be outplanted in degraded habitats, such as land damaged from wildfires.

Bitterbrush is an especially important forage plant for ungulates and big game species in the fall because it remains palatable and high in total digestible nutrients long after grasses and forbs. This project will not only restore essential sage-steppe habitat but also will educate students beyond the classroom.



In addition to forage for animals, bitterbrush can prevent nonnative plants from growing. For example, bitterbrush seedling recruitment is often episodic after wildfires, and if recruitment does not occur immediately, cheatgrass and other annual grasses and forbs can begin to form monocultures that do not easily promote plant succession.

The Surprise Field Office, in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, is in the process of identifying previously burned wildfire sites that are missing bitterbrush and sagebrush. Local volunteers associated with both the BLM and Nevada Department of Wildlife will help plant the bitterbrush seedlings on these sites. The Nevada Department of Wildlife also plans on buying additional sagebrush seedlings to plant along with the bitterbrush to develop a mosaic of plant communities that are important for mule deer and pronghorn antelope.

Marriage of Science, Land Acquisition, and Management Planning Creates Powerful and Dynamic Model for Endangered Species Conservation

In 2008, little was known about endangered species in the Panoche Hills region of the San Joaquin Valley. Even though the region was identified in the official recovery plan as one of a very few key recovery areas for several federally listed species, such as the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and giant kangaroo rat, projects involving these species were not in progress in the Ciervo-Panoche region. In addition, data was unavailable, except for outdated reports and a scattering of anecdotal observations. Land conservation in the region was happening at a slow pace, was poorly funded, and was not well guided by actual data on the populations at risk.

This all changed in the banner year of 2011 thanks to funding the Hollister Field Office received for endangered species research projects. Intensive surveys based on cutting-edge field and laboratory techniques were brought to the cusp of completion on all aforementioned species with astonishing success.

To begin, a large number of individual kit foxes in the Panoche region were individually identified by the field office through genetic fingerprinting, and the BLM can now rigorously assess where the foxes are localized and their population numbers. Similarly, blunt-nosed leopard lizards were thoroughly documented in population centers on and off public lands, and sufficient samples of tissues were collected to allow for efficient estimation of population size and population structure. Finally, giant kangaroo rat colonies throughout the Ciervo-Panoche region were identified through trapping, and their habitat will now be modeled using sophisticated remote sensing techniques.

The Hollister Field Office responded to this flood of new data by initiating an officewide project to revise the Panoche-Coalinga Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan to provide for proactive management of all species in the region. The field office also ramped up a coordinated effort to secure conservation over the entire Ciervo-Panoche landscape to preserve a contiguous, large-block land mass. The effort garnered more than a million dollars for land acquisition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Land and Water Conservation Fund. The funds have been used in 2011 to successfully purchase parcels of land with high endangered species value. Many more millions of dollars have been earmarked for acquisition of land in the Ciervo-Panoche in the 2012 and 2013 federal budgets.



COLORADO



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals



Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Encouraged to Make a Comeback

In fiscal year 2011, the BLM-Colorado fisheries program began constructing an in-channel fish barrier on East Fork Parachute Creek in order to initiate restoration for Colorado River cutthroat trout. The creek contains a rapidly declining population of genetically pure Colorado River cutthroat trout, a BLM sensitive species. In addition, the fish residing in the creek are some of the most genetically pure in the state and are identified as a core conservation population.

However, in addition to cutthroat, the stream contains an increasing population of nonnative brook trout. The brook trout are outcompeting

native cutthroat and threatening the long-term persistence of this native species in the stream.

The idea of the barrier is to separate the two species by eliminating upstream movement of brook trout. This will allow efforts to reclaim the stream segment located above the barrier. This barrier is the first step towards the long-term goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the amount of stream length occupied by nonnative brook trout.

Early design planning for this project was supported by the Western Native Trout Initiative under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Current partners include Trout Unlimited and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

COLORADO STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	93
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	302
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	236
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	4
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	38,993
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$5,134,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	623
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	524,661
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	135
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	199,110
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	316
Number of restoration projects using native plants	2
Number of native plant seed collections	80
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	5
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	4
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	5

BLM-Colorado Involved with Sage-Grouse Conservation and Other Diverse Projects

BLM-Colorado tackled another busy year of diverse wildlife projects, which included developing a surveillance effort to monitor, detect, and combat white-nose syndrome in bats; documenting activities of diurnal raptor and owl species impacted by oil and gas development; documenting the first occurrence of a midget faded rattlesnake, a BLM sensitive species; monitoring wildlife at guzzler water troughs; establishing a baseline inventory for breeding bird populations; and inventorying and monitoring habitat for several avian, mammalian, and amphibian species.

In addition to these important efforts, BLM-Colorado implemented actions to conserve the sage-grouse, which has faced a severe decline in population over the past 100 years. To begin, the Gunnison Field Office conducted weed inventory and treatment in habitat occupied by Gunnison sage-grouse to reduce cheatgrass and other invasive weeds that lower the quality of cover for grouse. Also in terms of habitat, the Kremmling Field Office inventoried and monitored habitat for greater sage-grouse to assure long-term habitat viability.

The Uncompahgre Field Office, U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, National Park Service, and Crawford Area Gunnison Sage Grouse Working Group deployed two global positioning system platform transmitter terminals to collect sage-grouse movement data. Approximately 1,600 locations on each bird have been collected so far. The data can help



determine seasonal movements, habitat use, and if vehicle use affects sage-grouse movements.

Also, the National Wild Turkey Federation and local Habitat Partnership Program treated pinyon-juniper encroaching on sagebrush areas. Portions of the treatment areas were seeded with native seed developed by the Uncompahgre partnership and BLM-Colorado native seed programs. The Colorado River Valley Field Office cleared the Castle Peak area of pinyon-juniper trees which supports a small population of greater sage-grouse. Removing the encroaching pinyon/juniper trees will set back succession and enhance sage-grouse habitat.

Conservation of Rare Parachute Beardtongue on BLM Lands

BLM-Colorado continues to monitor Parachute beardtongue, a Colorado endemic plant (a plant that occurs naturally in one place and nowhere else) that is limited to seven known white talus slopes on the Roan Plateau with an elevation more than 8,000 feet. Its small number of known occurrences makes the populations growing on BLM land important to the species' survival and viability. The BLM aims to maintain the integrity of current populations and monitor work at Anvil Points, a decommissioned oil shale mine, to prevent negative impact to this species.

A permanent trend monitoring plot was established at Anvil Points in 2004, and the Parachute beardtongue population, containing well over 700 individual plants, has been monitored annually (except 2006). The



main objective is to detect a 20 percent difference in mean stem density of Parachute beardtongue between years. To date, the number of stems within the plot has continued to grow since 2007 and now equals the previous high seen in 2005. In addition, the analysis shows that the number of reproductive stems within the plot has continued to grow since 2007. BLM-Colorado will continue this trend monitoring in order to track the status of Parachute beardtongue.

In addition to monitoring, seeds were collected at Anvil Points and supplied to the Denver Botanic Gardens for offsite storage. Offsite storage of Parachute beardtongue seeds is important as a backup collection so the genetic diversity of plant populations on public lands is preserved. The stored seeds can also help minimize further sampling from wild populations for future research and restoration purposes.

The BLM also partnered with the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens to develop successful Parachute beardtongue germination protocols which are essential for the study of the species and onsite and offsite conservation. This important work is adding value and utility to the collections stored in seed banks.

BLM-Colorado Aims to Meet Goals for Numerous T&E Species

The BLM-Colorado threatened and endangered species program conducted inventories and monitoring for threatened, endangered, and candidate species, including the southwestern willow flycatcher, Canada lynx, Gunnison's prairie dog, black-footed ferret, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado pikeminnow, least tern, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater sage-grouse, yellow-billed cuckoo, Mexican spotted owl, Dudley Bluffs bladderpod, Dudley Bluffs twinpod, skiff milkvetch, Kremmling milkvetch, Northpark phacelia, Penland's beardtongue, and Colorado hookless cactus.

The funds BLM-Colorado received provided that Bureau responsibilities were met in protecting threatened and endangered species. Inventory and monitoring of the aforementioned species and their habitat were conducted to assure long-term viability of existing populations

and identify new populations. Efforts to locate new populations and monitor existing populations occurred in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and other interested individuals.

Additionally, several BLM sensitive species management goals were implemented utilizing alternative funding for the following species: long-nosed leopard lizard, desert spiny lizard, fringed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, roundtail chub, flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker, midget faded rattlesnake, and desert bighorn sheep.



EASTERN STATES



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals

EASTERN STATES STATISTICS

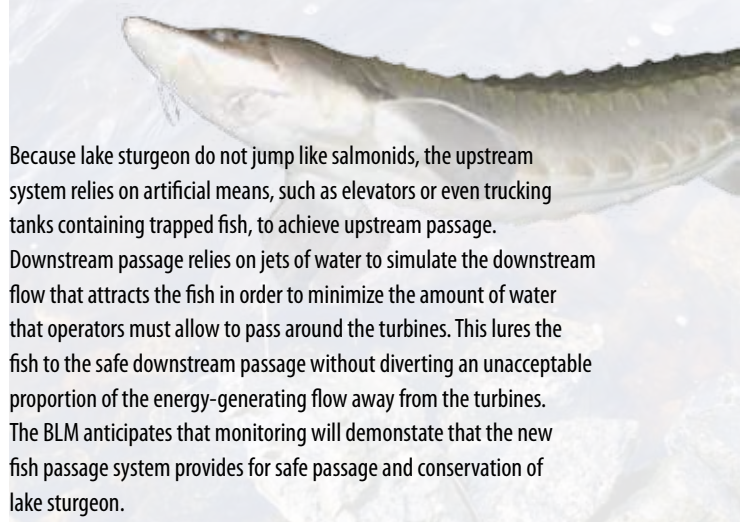
Miles of fish habitat restored	3
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	5
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	345
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	4
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	300
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$40,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	7
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	650
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	4
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	70
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	7
Number of restoration projects using native plants	2
Number of native plant seed collections	2
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	6
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	2
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	70

BLM Partners with USFWS on Lake Sturgeon Monitoring System

The Northeastern States Field Office combined efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a fish monitoring system to track the use of a new fish passage system for lake sturgeon. The BLM funded the monitoring system, which employs video cameras and radio tags for tracking individual fish passage.

Lake sturgeon in Lake Michigan have been separated from their historical Menominee River spawning habitat for nearly a century, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and dam operators are in various phases of design and installation of passage systems on three separate

dams. These systems will eventually provide upstream and downstream passage around all five dams that block the lake sturgeon's historical range on the Menominee River.

Because lake sturgeon do not jump like salmonids, the upstream system relies on artificial means, such as elevators or even trucking tanks containing trapped fish, to achieve upstream passage. Downstream passage relies on jets of water to simulate the downstream flow that attracts the fish in order to minimize the amount of water that operators must allow to pass around the turbines. This lures the fish to the safe downstream passage without diverting an unacceptable proportion of the energy-generating flow away from the turbines. The BLM anticipates that monitoring will demonstrate that the new fish passage system provides for safe passage and conservation of lake sturgeon.

BLM Interns Inventory Forested Wetlands

The Northeastern States Field Office sent two interns, hired under the Youth Initiative, to inventory land in northeastern Minnesota, where the BLM manages about 1,200 acres of public lands. These lands are heavily forested and largely surrounded by county, state, and national forests, which create numerous opportunities for cooperative management. The interns inventoried several large wetland complexes, relying on local expertise and guidance from other agency land managers on gaining access to these remote areas. Providing opportunities to youth that also help the BLM manage public lands is mutually beneficial.

Community Pollinator Garden Provides Local Benefits to Butterflies, Bees, Birds, and the Public

One year after BLM staff and local volunteers designed and planted a community pollinator garden at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia, a variety of benefits are being provided to pollinator species, plants, and visitors. In 2010, the community pollinator garden was planted at the primary parking area and trailhead at Meadowood, providing a unique visual and educational opportunity to highlight the benefits of pollinators.

Pollinator species such as bees, butterflies, and bats provide a variety of benefits to native, nonnative, and agricultural plant species through pollination. This has a trickle-down effect, benefiting plant communities as a whole and the wildlife that depend upon them, such as migratory and nonmigratory bird species.



In northern Virginia, pollinator species are under pressure from urban development, loss of habitat, insecticide use, invasive species, and a variety of other causes. The decrease in numbers of pollinators results in less pollination, leading to less diverse or less abundant plant communities and diminished wildlife habitat as a whole.

Beginning with initial site work and soil enhancement, local volunteers worked with the BLM to plant a variety of native and a few select nonnative species at the garden site in 2010. The year then turned into one of, if not the, hottest and driest summers on record for the Washington, DC, metro area. Despite the heat, hardy volunteers and staff hauled water to the garden, keeping plants alive that first year.

In 2011, the garden really began to take off, with abundant flowering plants and attendant pollinators. In addition to native plants, such as butterfly milkweed and indigobush, the common ornamental zinnia, grown annually from seed, has been extremely hardy and colorful, flowering all summer and always popular with a wide variety of bees, flies, moths, and butterflies. Even flocks

of gold finches were observed swooping down into the garden to eat seeds towards the end of summer.

Volunteers, including many at National Public Lands Day in 2011, continued to contribute greatly to this ongoing project. Since the public embraced the garden, future plans call for an interpretative panel describing the benefits and species used so visitors can easily plant a similar garden to provide benefits to pollinators and wildlife at home. In addition, a local park and a high school are considering installing similar gardens, setting the stage for future expansion of pollinator gardens, plants, and habitats.

Roosting Tower Established in Louisiana Swamp for At-Risk Bats

The Southeastern States Field Office built a bat roosting tower for at-risk bat species on BLM-managed land in central Louisiana. Numerous bat species in the United States are considered threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. This is of concern because bats play a large role as

pollinators and are major predators of insects, such as mosquitoes.

Adjacent to the Big Saline Bayou, the bottomland hardwood-cypress swamp floods annually and provides suitable habitat for southeastern myotis, big brown bat, and Rafinesque's big-eared bat. These species typically use large, buttressed trees with cavities for roosting. However, less than half of the South's original bottomland hardwood and bald cypress forests remain. Suitable roosts have been identified as a limiting factor—a factor that controls a population's growth—for Rafinesque's big-eared bat and southeastern myotis.

The cinder block tower was constructed using a design by Bat Conservation International, with additional height added to accommodate seasonal flooding up to 7 feet.



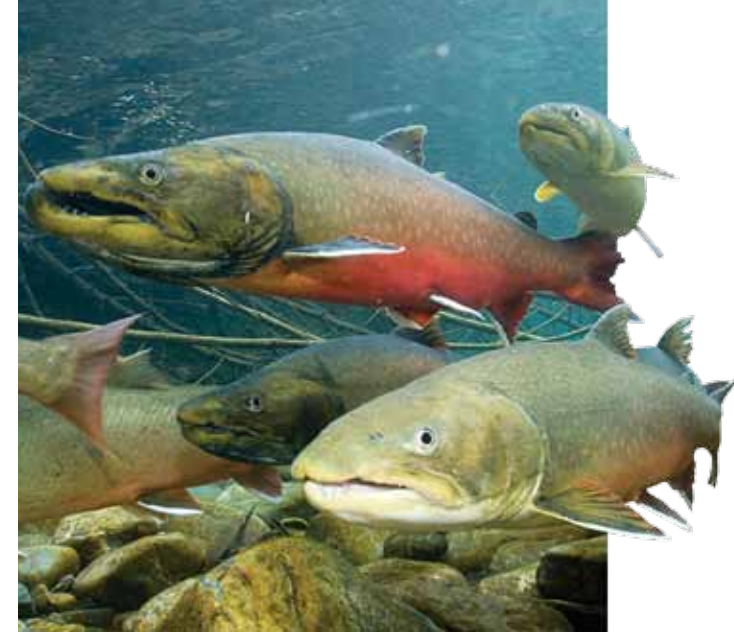
IDAHO



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals

IDAHO STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	37
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	191
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	129
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	234,422
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$1,300,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	1,033
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	229,782
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	56
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	3
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	28,045
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	293
Number of restoration projects using native plants	9
Number of native plant seed collections	369
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	10
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	3
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	1
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	8



The Cottonwood Field Office has undertaken a multiyear fish habitat restoration project in and along 3.4 miles of the American River. In 2011, restoration work on 2 miles of the river included construction of 35 upstream check dams to create pools and reduce flow velocity, installation of 150 pieces of large woody debris, installation of 175 habitat rocks, and removal or redistribution of more than 2,000 cubic yards of mine tailings.

Additional restoration associated with the American River in 2011 included decommissioning 1 mile of floodplain and riparian road, decommissioning two fords, converting 3 miles of road to trail for all-terrain vehicles, and relocating 1 mile of trail out of the riparian area. Once complete, this restoration should improve habitat conditions from about 45 percent aquatic habitat potential to 80 percent and will support recovery for endangered and BLM sensitive fish species.

In addition to restoration, the BLM-Idaho fisheries program focused efforts on stream and riparian habitat inventory in 2011, with a total of 36 miles of stream habitat inventoried. One of the streams that was assessed is Squaw Creek in the Owyhee Field Office area in southwest Idaho. In addition to evidence of beaver activity, the reach had abundant hardwood and herbaceous riparian vegetation that provided bank protection, energy dissipation, and fine sediment deposition. The result of the inventory showed that the stream is in proper functioning condition.

Fisheries Program Focuses on Restoration and Inventory

In 2011, the BLM-Idaho fisheries program continued habitat restoration on the American River, which is the largest restoration project currently being implemented on BLM land. The American River, a tributary to the South Fork of the Clearwater River in north-central Idaho, has been impacted by historical dredge mining and off-road vehicles and provides habitat for the endangered Snake River Basin steelhead, Snake River spring/summer-run chinook salmon, and bull trout; and the BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout and redband trout.



BLM-Idaho National Conservation Area Hosts 500 Students for Desert Discovery Days

During 4 days in May 2011, the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area hosted 500 students, plus their chaperones, at Dedication Point for Desert Discovery Days. This annual event provides an opportunity for students in grades 3 through 6 to learn about the desert ecosystem and the national conservation area.

Students learned about animals that inhabit the desert, including snakes, lizards, and raptors that call the Snake River Canyon home. The students explored desert vegetation and learned about the plant adaptations for living in an area with little water.

At the rim of Snake River Canyon, where students were able to view the splendor of the canyon and possibly catch a glimpse of a raptor or two, students were briefed on the geology and cultural history of the area. Students also learned about predator/prey relationships.

Idaho Falls District Purchases 191-Acre Conservation Easement

In fiscal year 2011, the Idaho Falls District purchased a conservation easement on a 191-acre property near the South Fork of the Snake River at its confluence with Henry’s Fork. The property has river frontage, islands, two sloughs, and a portion of the extensive cottonwood gallery forest associated with the Upper Snake River. The conservation easement is critical to the protection of wildlife habitat and substantial wetlands in the area.

Whitebark and Limber Pine Restoration Efforts

Fiscal year 2011 was the second year of a genetics restoration project for whitebark and limber pines in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Whitebark and limber pines on BLM lands are experiencing widespread mortality from mountain pine beetles, white pine blister rust, climate change, and succession.

For example, in southern Idaho on BLM lands, the current mountain pine beetle epidemic has resulted in mortality of approximately 95,700 acres of limber pine trees and 19,100 acres of whitebark pine trees. The ability to respond to restoration of these areas is dependent on having available seed and planting stock.

The objectives of the project are to (1) identify whitebark and limber pine trees for seed collection, under the Seeds of Success program, that are resistant to white pine blister rust; (2) collect and store seed from identified individual trees; and (3) continue white pine blister rust screening programs for the BLM along with the U.S. Forest Service and other research partners.

Cones were collected from identified trees in the three states in 2011. In addition, whitebark and limber pine “plus trees” (i.e., trees with desirable traits that are resistant to environmental threats) were permanently marked in 2011. This project will result in proactive management to sustain whitebark and limber pine ecosystems.

Fuels Projects Treat Thousands of Acres

The Twin Falls District fuels staff had a busy fall in fiscal year 2011 as they conducted fuels projects on more than 31,000 acres. The fuels projects occurred within the areas of the Jarbidge, Burley, and Shoshone Field Offices and consisted of prescribed fires, fuel break harrowing and seeding, drill and aerial seeding, aspen and juniper thinning, and weed spraying.

Through these efforts, wildlife habitat was improved by removing invasive plant species and restoring desirable native species to the landscape. Several of the projects were partnership efforts between the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and city of Twin Falls.



Interagency Cooperation Removes Invasive Trees to Aid Habitat Restoration on Bruneau River

The Idaho State Office and Boise District Office assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accomplish the abatement of about 100 invasive trees to improve riparian habitat along the Bruneau River at Hot Creek, home to the endangered Bruneau hot springsnail.

Two invasive species, saltcedar and Russian olive, were targeted for this project. These two water-loving tree species contribute to riparian habitat degradation because they use a lot of water and support very few native insects. They also are not palatable to deer or aquatic insects in the stream. Native willows and dogwoods will be able to recover since the exotic trees were removed.

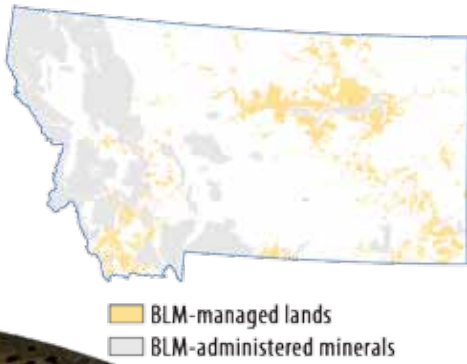
Eleven employees hiked into the area, braving large stands of poison ivy to complete this project. Although this type of project is labor intensive and time consuming, it has a big payoff in native habitat restoration.

Wolverines and the Coeur d’Alene Field Office

The wolverine was identified as a candidate species for protection under the Endangered Species Act in 2011. The Coeur d’Alene Field Office has parcels of land that may support denning or year-round wolverine use. The BLM has been working cooperatively with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to place baited remote cameras in suitable habitat with the hope of detecting wolverines and other rare forest carnivores.



MONTANA/DAKOTAS



MONTANA/DAKOTAS STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	46
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	432
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	4,254
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	3
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	127,704
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$3,271,480
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	1,213
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	616,235
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	37
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	2
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	43,600
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	278
Number of restoration projects using native plants	7
Number of native plant seed collections	64
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	4
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	4
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	1

and a corresponding increase in westslope cutthroat trout.

In addition, the Dillon Field Office has dozens of streams with miles of historic westslope cutthroat trout habitat that currently do not support westslope cutthroat trout. Current efforts aimed at converting these streams will more than triple the current amount of occupied habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. This ongoing westslope cutthroat trout restoration work has the support and cooperation of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; the U.S. Forest Service's Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest; and Montana Trout Unlimited.



Also in 2011, American bullfrog eradication efforts were initiated to conserve native aquatic species in Montana. The American bullfrog is an aquatic invasive species and voracious predator. American bullfrog distribution in eastern Montana is currently limited to a couple of major breeding and rearing sites on the Yellowstone River near Billings. If allowed to expand its currently limited range, the American bullfrog will have dramatic negative influences on the biota of the Yellowstone River ecosystem, one of the last large free-flowing rivers in the world and habitat for a suite of native amphibians and reptiles.

Removal of Nonnative and Invasive Aquatic Species Improves Habitat and Biota for Natives

Of the numerous conservation efforts in 2011, some projects focused on conserving westslope cutthroat trout by reducing the number of nonnative species and removing fish barriers. Historically, westslope cutthroat trout were likely found in most perennial streams flowing into the Missouri River drainage upstream of Great Falls, Montana. Today, genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout are found in less than 2 percent of this historic habitat. The primary and most significant reason for the near extirpation of native westslope cutthroat trout from these drainages are nonnative species introductions. The 2011 projects resulted in a significant reduction in the number of nonnative species



The eradication of the American bullfrog from this area is a cooperative effort between the BLM, U.S. Geological Survey, Montana Natural Heritage Program, and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Conservation of Native Montana Birds and Turtles

The BLM entered into an agreement with the Montana Natural Heritage Program to inventory grassland-associated birds in Valley County, Montana, in 2001, and monitoring has been conducted

annually since. Birds observed include state and federal species of concern. One of the most abundant species observed, the Sprague's pipit, is currently a candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered.

North Valley County is an exceptional example of native northern Great Plains grassland, representing some of the most intact remaining prairie in Montana and the entire North American continent. Much of this landscape is managed by the BLM-Montana/Dakotas. The size of this large block of public rangeland makes it especially important to species with very limited breeding distributions and those species dependent upon larger expanses of land. The area has been designated as an important bird area of global importance because of its diversity and abundance of grassland bird species.

To ensure that the full suite of grassland bird species remain viable in this landscape, the BLM-Montana/Dakotas partnered with The Nature Conservancy; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and the University of Montana to characterize the response of songbirds to ecosystem processes to help guide regional and local conservation of grassland systems. Outreach to various groups included a field workshop on grassland bird management issues presented at Montana Audubon's Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival.

Another example of BLM-Montana/Dakotas work in conservation focused on maintaining and conserving important habitat for spiny softshell turtles. The spiny softshell turtle is a Montana species of concern and a BLM sensitive species. The Montana populations of this species have been isolated from the rest of the species' range since the Pleistocene era and may be genetically distinct. The Montana population is further isolated by construction of several large dams on the Missouri River.

A study was initiated by the BLM in 2009 with Montana State University to identify key or critical habitat components within the upper Missouri River,



Photo by John Carlson, BLM wildlife biologist

and more than 50 turtles were fitted with radio transmitters. From 2009 to 2011, more than 900 relocations of spiny softshell turtles were recorded, and habitat data was collected at more than 400 of these relocations. Some turtles were found to have moved as much as 40 river miles in 2 weeks, and some moved less than 1 mile in 2 weeks.

In 2010, only 2 nests were found, but in 2011, about 20 nests were found at 9 different locations throughout the study site. In addition, hibernating turtles were found in areas approximately 2 meters (approximately 6 1/2 feet) deep and approximately 14 meters (approximately 46 feet) from shore. The spiny softshell turtles appear to use the same locations to overwinter across years, and some turtles appear to have fidelity to hibernation sites across years.

Native Plants and the Special K Ranch

In 2005, BLM-Montana/Dakotas entered into an agreement with the Special K Ranch near Columbus, Montana, to utilize some of their greenhouse space in the summer and fall to develop native plant material for use in restoration projects. The ranch is a unique place that provides a residential and vocational lifestyle to mentally challenged adults, and part of the ranch work includes maintaining 17 greenhouses during the winter to raise bedding plants for local home and garden retailers.

To start the 2011 field season, about 10,385 plants were sent to BLM partners to be planted. The planting efforts for the 2011 season have yielded about 14,000 plants that will be used in the 2012 field season. Some of BLM-Montana/Dakotas partners include the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, BLM-Idaho, and Idaho Botanical Garden.

In terms of native seed collections, BLM-Montana/Dakotas field offices made 77 collections in fiscal year 2011. Some were added to the Seeds of Success program, while the remainder will be used for seed or plant production at the Special K Ranch or direct seeding for field office rehabilitation projects.



Keeping Wildlife Off the Endangered Species List and Supporting the Threatened Grizzly Bear

Few endangered or threatened species occur on BLM-Montana/Dakotas lands, so most effort in this realm is directed at keeping species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act. In fiscal year 2011, BLM biologists continued to conduct piping plover international census work and interior least tern surveys to document their distribution and abundance.

BLM-Montana/Dakotas also focused on the threatened grizzly bear and is a partner in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem subgroup of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, formed to coordinate grizzly bear recovery efforts throughout northwestern Montana. Human activities resulting in grizzly bear mortalities were the main reasons the grizzly bear was listed as threatened in 1975. Since then, management of human activities has allowed bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem to achieve recovered status.

The BLM and other agencies within the species recovery zones were asked to adopt habitat standards to keep grizzly bears in this landscape. Habitat standards included guidance for food storage, motorized use, livestock grazing, and developed sites (such as campgrounds and trailheads).

The BLM manages roughly 21,000 acres within the Rocky Mountain Front Recovery Zone. A BLM interdisciplinary team is currently reviewing the recommended habitat standards and determining the process to integrate grizzly bear conservation strategies into BLM land use plans that provide management direction for BLM lands inside this recovery zone, as well as grizzly bear core habitats outside the recovery zone.



NEVADA



NEVADA STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	3
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	208
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	188
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	2
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	28,945
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$3,333,529
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	161
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	3,387,658
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	277
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	4
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	314,800
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	55
Number of restoration projects using native plants	34
Number of native plant seed collections	1
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	78
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	11
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	3
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	17

Maggie Creek Basin were extremely degraded by livestock grazing that resulted in downcut channels with little or no riparian vegetation remaining on streambanks. Heavy sediment loads and high summer stream temperatures created conditions considered lethal to trout. Culvert barriers further isolated tributaries from each other and from the mainstem. Genetic studies warned that Lahontan cutthroat trout populations were both isolated and at risk of extirpation.

Over the past 18 years, more than 100 miles of stream and 50,000 acres of uplands have been improved as a result of applying prescriptive livestock grazing practices designed to limit the frequency and duration of hot-season grazing on streams. Other restoration efforts include prescribed burning, pasture fencing, a conservation easement, water developments, and removing culvert barriers.

Habitat conditions on more than 90 percent of the 70-plus miles of Lahontan cutthroat trout stream habitat have improved dramatically. Genetic studies suggest movement between tributaries may be occurring as a result of removing culvert barriers. But most significant is the discovery of a new population of Lahontan cutthroat trout in Little Jack Creek. Electroshocking studies conducted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife in August 2011 confirmed three age classes of Lahontan cutthroat trout, including some born within the past year, which indicates a reproducing population. The improved stream conditions, as well as the removal of downstream culvert barriers, has likely resulted in Lahontan cutthroat trout expanding into previously unoccupied habitat, including Little Jack Creek.

Build It and They Will Come

In 2011, the Elko District continued restoration efforts on Maggie Creek Basin to improve habitat for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. These comprehensive watershed restoration efforts involve multiple public and private partners and began in the early 1990s. The basin covers almost 400 square miles and includes both fenced private lands and four large grazing allotments administered by the Elko District.

Maggie Creek drains into the Humboldt River west of Elko, Nevada, and supports Lahontan cutthroat trout. Prior to 1993, streams in the



The Elko District's multiple partners for the Maggie Creek Basin restoration efforts include the Newmont Mining Company, TS Ranch, Maggie Creek Ranch, Twenty-five Ranch, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc., and the University of Nevada, Reno.



Landscape Restoration for Greater Sage-Grouse

The Carson City District Office is engaged in a multiyear, landscape-scale project focused on the distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse in Nevada and eastern California to support sage-grouse conservation and

management. The greater sage-grouse is a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act.

The 900,000-acre project area includes three sage-grouse population management units located across four counties. The district works with a variety of on-the-ground partnerships to collect sage-grouse data, vegetation data, and road and trail data and to conduct habitat restoration work. Partners include the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Great Basin Bird Observatory, Chicago Botanic Garden, and Carson Valley Chukar Club.

The district has also partnered with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center to monitor sage-grouse populations using traditional and GPS telemetry to determine movement patterns, home-range information, and habitat selection. Partner interns are working with the USGS to collect sage-grouse and vegetation data. This critical information will be incorporated into the BLM's resource management plan revision process under the BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy.

The district's Sierra Front Field Office recently completed the Buckskin Valley Vegetation Treatment Environmental Assessment on a 7,000-acre project in the Pine Nut area to restore sagebrush habitat and riparian areas by thinning



pinyon pines and juniper trees. Sagebrush habitat used by sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, chukar, and other wildlife species in the project area is being lost to woodland encroachment and is at risk from large, intense wildfires. Portions of the project area will be seeded with shrub, forb, and grass species to improve the understory component of sagebrush communities.

Sierra Front Field Office Hosts Interns to Focus on Plant Conservation

In 2011, the Sierra Front Field Office hosted nine Chicago Botanic Garden interns to work on a variety of conservation projects, including seed collecting for BLM's native plant materials development program, fire rehabilitation monitoring, weed abatement, and BLM sensitive species monitoring.

One of the first tasks for the interns in early April 2011 was to survey for William's combleaf, an endemic BLM sensitive species. William's combleaf was first discovered in the Virginia Range in western Nevada and is listed by the state as critically endangered. In 2001, the Carson City Field Office exchanged lands in order to bring ephemeral lakes in the Virginia Range under federal ownership and established the Virginia Range Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect William's combleaf from threats, such as off-highway vehicles and overgrazing.

The interns, working with a BLM botanist, surveyed four ephemeral lakes in the Virginia Range and three ephemeral lakes in the Pine Nut Mountains. The interns flagged individual plants and then used GPS units to map the extent of the endemic species. They also recorded and later treated any noxious weeds occurring in the sensitive species habitat.

Not only did the interns find William's combleaf, but they also located several Native American prehistoric artifacts, such as grinding stones and a projectile point. These items were also documented, and the GPS coordinates were shared with field office archaeologists.

After the survey was completed the team reread permanent monitoring plots and recorded data, such as density, stage class distribution, and

cover. They also mapped the spatial distribution of William's combleaf and its perennial neighbors within the plot.

The data collected by the botany team will be used by the BLM to analyze the renewal of a grazing permit and to develop a conservation plan for William's combleaf. The botany team is now creating a database and geographic information system (GIS) maps to show the results of the survey.

Conservation of Schlessers Pincushion in the Ely District

The Ely District conducted surveys in 2011 for the globally rare Schlessers pincushion in a newly created area of critical environmental concern. The cactus is a BLM sensitive species and geographically distinct to the central mountains of the Great Basin ecoregion.

Due to these survey efforts and other surveys in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the plant was discovered in more locations than previously known. The BLM survey efforts likely contributed to the plant not being listed under the Endangered Species Act, and district staff is on the lookout for more occurrences of this rare plant.

Modeling Climate Change Scenarios for the Mojave Desert Tortoise

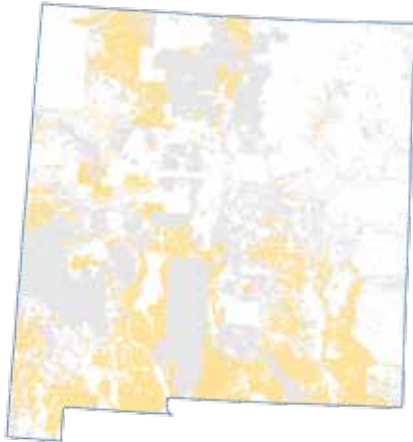
The Ely District began a landscape-level climate change modeling effort in 2011 in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey. Project efforts will provide essential habitat information for determining the climate adaptation needs of the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise.

The project models different climate change scenarios for the tortoise to identify the most suitable climate forecast derivatives to be used in future climate scenario modeling efforts. Additionally, the model will extend the newly developed Mojave Desert tortoise habitat suitability model into the Sonoran Desert. Details of the newly developed model can be found in the U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009-1102.





NEW MEXICO



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals



NEW MEXICO STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	65
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	68
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	211
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	5
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	116,710
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$618,810
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	82
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	585,090
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	439
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	2
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	318,033
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	160
Number of native plant seed collections	83
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	7
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	4
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	5

in 1994 to control livestock use in a stream reach containing listed and sensitive desert fish species. At that time, a livestock exclusion fence was installed in the Gila Lower Box Wilderness Study Area in order to reestablish and conserve fisheries habitat.

The program, in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, has an annual maintenance contract for the exclusion and a monitoring component essential to assess fish status. Since the project started, cottonwood and willow species have recolonized the stream banks within the exclusion and are now firmly established, thereby decreasing the negative effects of the formally dominant and invasive saltcedar.

In addition to supporting spinedace and loach minnow populations, the reach also provides habitat for other desert fish species, including longfin dace, speckled dace, desert sucker, Sonora sucker, and Gila trout. Habitat improvement is also targeted to the recovery of roundtail chub in the basin, which is included in a conservation agreement that includes BLM-New Mexico.

Farmington Field Office, Wildlife, and the BLM's Multiple Use Mandate

During fiscal year 2011, the Farmington Field Office worked with a variety of partners to improve wildlife habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species, including mule deer, elk, black bear, pronghorn antelope, Merriam's turkey, scaled quail, and Gambel's quail.

Wildlife habitat management by the Farmington Field Office centers on providing the basics: food, water, and cover. To this end, the field office manages for



Fisheries Program Improves Habitat for Desert Fish

In fiscal year 2011, the BLM-New Mexico fisheries program continued to maintain a habitat conservation project on the Gila River. The BLM-New Mexico Southern Zone fisheries program implemented this project



a mosaic of uneven-aged plant communities that collectively support a broad diversity of plant and animal species. In terms of water, the field office currently maintains 142 wildlife water sources. Throughout the state, the other six field offices maintain more than 525 watering facilities for wildlife. These projects are kept in good working order and provide essential habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

The Farmington Field Office epitomizes the BLM's multiple-use mandate in that it has one of the most active natural gas fields in the lower 48 states. With nearly 30,000 gas wells, the field office wildlife program works to mitigate the impacts of habitat fragmentation by maintaining adequate cover and regulating vehicle travel through strategic road closures. The field office currently maintains 33 locked gates and numerous road closures through signs and barriers to benefit wildlife.

In 2011, the Farmington Field Office also worked with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, and Williams Company to construct two trick tanks (watering devices for wildlife) in Ensenada Mesa, a specially designated area for wildlife. The trick tanks are located in areas adjacent to Dixie harrow projects, sagebrush thinning projects that promote grass and forb growth.

Outdoor Class Inspires New Mexico Middle School Students

BLM-New Mexico hosted four outdoor classes for middle school students at Simon Canyon Recreation Area during May 2011. Simon Canyon is adjacent to the San Juan River below Navajo Dam reservoir and contains a riparian area with a cottonwood gallery and many wildflowers.



The outdoor classes were divided into various resource stations staffed by specialists in botany (plant conservation), wildlife, geology, entomology, paleontology, soil science and water, noxious and invasive weeds, and riparian ecology. Small groups of students visited outdoor stations to hear presentations from the specialists and viewed associated displays. Many students had never attended an outdoor class and were thrilled with the experience.



Botanists from the BLM-New Mexico, Chicago Botanic Garden, and Navajo Nation presented different aspects on botany for the outdoor class presentations to the students. Presentations covered field botany collection techniques, how to keep a journal, plant taxonomy and identification, seed collection for long-term conservation for the BLM Seeds of Success program, and the professional life of a BLM botanist. Following the presentations, students learned about traditional Navajo uses of plants for healing, ceremonies, dyes for fibers used in weaving, and wild foods.

Efforts Implemented to Enhance Endangered Species Populations

In 2011, BLM-New Mexico focused efforts to benefit the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and improve habitat for eventual reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret.

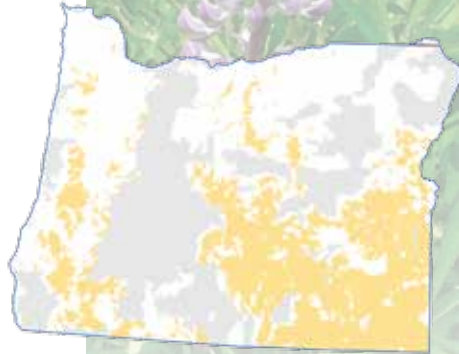
Since 2006, the Taos Field Office has removed saltcedar, Russian olive, and Siberian elm from the Rio Grande, while actively restoring native riparian vegetation for the benefit of the southwestern willow flycatcher and other wildlife. Project partners include the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Amigos Bravos, Hawks Aloft, Natural Heritage New Mexico, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Taos Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and Taos County Weed Control Committee.

In an effort to enhance Gunnison's prairie dog populations, the Rio Puerco Field Office worked with the city of Santa Fe to relocate approximately 1,700 prairie dogs to the El Malpais National Conservation Area. Initial monitoring data suggest the relocation efforts have been successful and that occupied habitat has expanded.

Currently, endangered black-footed ferrets are not found in El Malpais. However, continued prairie dog relocation efforts are targeted toward eventually reaching a level appropriate for ferret reintroduction. Other partners in this effort include WildEarth Guardians, People for Native Ecosystems, and Prairie Dog Advocacy Watch Group.



OREGON/WASHINGTON



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals

OREGON/WASHINGTON STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	247
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	749
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	306
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	2
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	38,884
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$1,400,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	1,916
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	525,287
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	124
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	9
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	42,339
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	798
Number of restoration projects using native plants	72
Number of native plant seed collections	723
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	273
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	5
Number of projects with private sector seed growers	62
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	49



grazing enclosure to protect the creek. Monitoring of the reach showed improved fish habitat conditions. Also, the BLM worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to reintroduce beavers to the reach in 2011.

Salem District and the Salmon River Habitat Restoration Project

In 2011, the Salem District and Sandy River Basin Partners constructed 15 log jams on 2 miles of BLM-managed lands on the lower Salmon River in the Sandy River watershed. A total of 250 large logs were added to the main and side channel habitats, and more than 750 small logs were used in the construction of the log jams.

The log structures are designed to provide rearing and spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead trout, while restoring floodplain function and reconnecting flows on 1/2 mile of side channel habitat. Primary partners involved with the Salmon River project include The Freshwater Trust, U.S. Forest Service, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, Portland Water Bureau, and The Nature Conservancy.



A Cooperative Effort to Understand Elk Habitat and Nutrition Needs

BLM-Oregon/Washington continued participating in a cooperative effort to expand the application of elk habitat use and nutrition models to southwest Oregon. The work in 2011 focused on refining elk habitat use and nutrition models to allow managers to estimate and map the probability of elk use within and across these landscapes.

Spokane District and Bonaparte Creek Riparian Restoration

In 2011, the Spokane District participated in cooperative restoration of Bonaparte Creek with the Okanogan Conservation District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The creek's channel was rehabilitated by rerouting 3,500 linear feet into a more sinuous channel of 4,500 feet, installing large woody debris, using cobble for bank stabilization, placing streambed gravel, planting riparian shrubs and trees, and seeding disturbed areas.

Future work will include restoring approximately 100 acres of riparian and upland habitat. The project will benefit steelhead trout that inhabit the creek by improving steelhead egg survival and increased out-migration of juvenile fish.

Lakeview District and Bridge Creek Restoration

The Lakeview District worked in cooperation with grazing permittees in 2011 to improve bank stability and redband trout habitat on nearly 1 mile of Bridge Creek. Actions included reshaping streambanks, placing juniper on cut banks, transplanting whole willows, and creating a

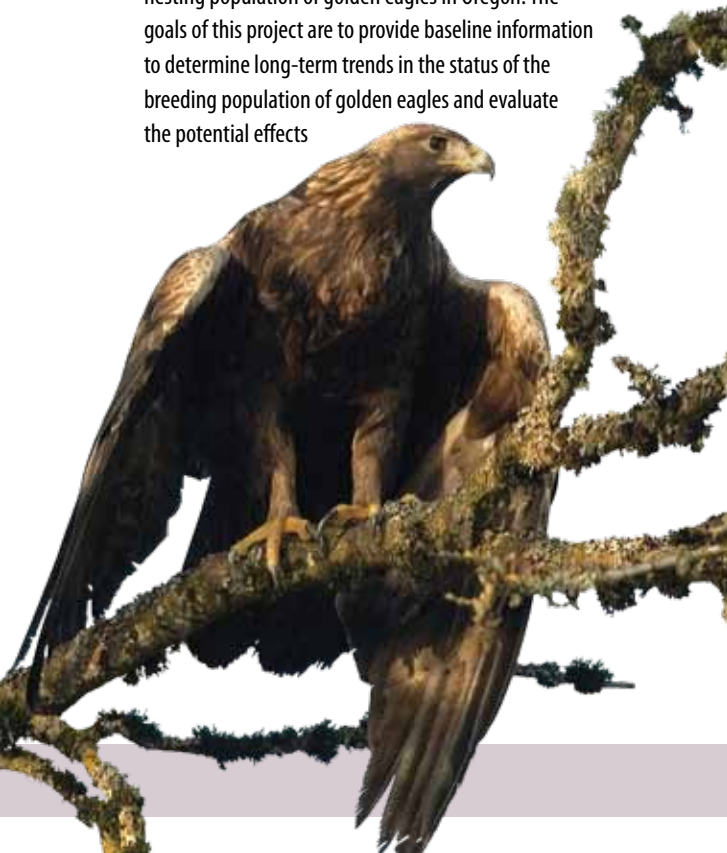


Another focus involved planning and managing elk distribution more effectively in relation to a diverse set of partner goals. One goal will be the ability to manage elk distributions across land ownerships, such as when land managers want to shift elk use away from agricultural lands and increase use on nearby public lands.

The partners for this effort include the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, and Boone and Crockett Club.

Partners Conduct Inventory of Golden Eagle

In response to the "Draft Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance" issued in 2011 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM, Oregon Eagle Foundation, and energy partners came together with the Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate an intensive 2-year inventory project designed to determine the size, distribution, and productivity of the nesting population of golden eagles in Oregon. The goals of this project are to provide baseline information to determine long-term trends in the status of the breeding population of golden eagles and evaluate the potential effects



on eagles from existing and proposed renewable energy development projects across Oregon.

West Eugene Wetlands Project

BLM-Oregon/Washington cooperatively participated in the West Eugene Wetlands restoration project in 2011 in western Oregon. Forty-five acres of restoration resulted in increased populations of Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine within treated areas, providing for the recovery of these federally threatened/endangered species.

Members of the partnership also conducted habitat monitoring for Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, several sensitive plants, and western pond turtles. Additionally, research was conducted regarding butterfly hosts and native bees that are critical for pollinating rare species associated with the wetlands.

Partners included the city of Eugene, The Nature Conservancy, Institute for Applied Ecology, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several watershed councils, trusts, and educational networks.

BLM and Partners Work to Recover Gentner's Fritillary

BLM botanists continued work with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the recovery of Gentner's fritillary, a federally listed lily found in southwest Oregon in the Medford District. Bulblets were collected from mature plants, cultivated under nursery conditions, and transplanted into suitable habitat within the species' recovery areas.

To date, 17,391 bulbs have been transplanted into 17 sites on BLM lands. Annual monitoring shows that more than 4,000 transplants emerged in 2011 and some of the resulting plants are flowering. Currently, the Oregon Department of Agriculture is working with the BLM on researching the potential value of mixing transplants from separate sources in order to promote genetically diverse seed production in new populations.



Medford Native Plant Program Highlights

In 2011, the Medford District developed a western

regional multiagency native grass and forb seed increase contract for 11 western states. This contract will facilitate the BLM and other federal agencies in producing locally collected, source-identified native plant material for restoration and rehabilitation.

The district managed 10 contracts and 2 intergovernmental agreements with the U.S. Forest Service's J.H. Stone Nursery and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Corvallis Plant Materials Center, totaling approximately \$450,000. The district contracted more than 25 acres of new native seed production fields with commercial growers throughout Oregon and Washington and produced more than 16,000 pounds of seed from existing fields for 35 native species and 53 seed sources. This seed is available for restoration projects and for out-year use in wildland fire rehabilitation.

As part of the national Seeds of Success program, the district made 70 wildland seed collections of 80 different species using Chicago Botanic Garden interns. These seeds will be placed in long-term storage at the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado, in the event that this germplasm is needed in the future.

Habitat Improvement Fosters Foscett Speckled Dace

Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BLM-Oregon/Washington helped reestablish a population of the federally threatened Foscett speckled dace at Dace Spring in south-central Oregon, where a population was temporarily established around 1980. After two ponds were constructed in 2009, 49 fish were introduced to the ponds in 2010. Seventy-five more fish were introduced in 2011, with successful reproduction documented at the Dace Spring site as well. Foscett speckled dace habitat improvement work is scheduled to begin at Foscett Spring in the winter of 2012.



UTAH



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals

UTAH STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	40
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	278
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	457
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	11
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	76,754
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	\$1,230,000
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	384
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	577,087
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	88
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	2
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	178,000
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	307
Number of restoration projects using native plants	32
Number of native plant seed collections	305
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	20
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	8
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	24

River Basin in Utah Nominated as 1 of 10 “Waters to Watch” and BLM-Utah Restoration Highlights

In fiscal year 2011, the Green River basin, including the White River, was nominated by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan as 1 of the 10 “Waters to Watch,” a collection of rivers, streams, lakes, and estuaries that will benefit from strategic conservation efforts to protect, restore, or enhance their current condition over the next year. The Green River basin was also recognized by the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership as having outstanding aquatic resources. The White River is occupied by native desert fishes, including the bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub, collectively referred to as the “three species.”



BLM-Utah has entered into assistance agreements with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to allow for cooperative conservation efforts for native fish. The work accomplished through this agreement involves completing many activities relating to “three species” conservation, including habitat surveys to gain knowledge on current distribution, movement and life history studies, genetic studies, potential reintroductions into historical habitats, work to maintain water in important habitats, and habitat restoration/improvements.

Results show that the percent of native species found was higher than other areas sampled in the Green River basin and in other upper Colorado River basin areas. The observed numbers of fish are good indications that the White River is an important spawning area and nursery habitat for the “three species.” A final report will detail the results of all monitoring activities.

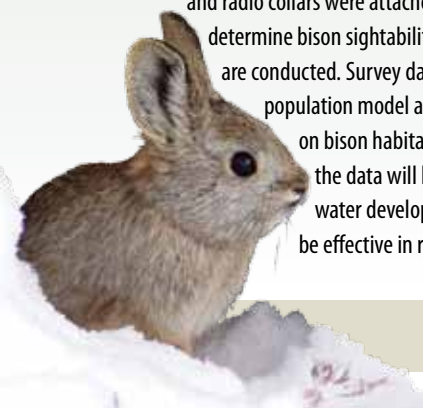
In fiscal year 2011, BLM-Utah also focused on restoration efforts. To begin, during the summer of 2009, BLM-Utah worked with Trout Unlimited to survey 110 road crossings and irrigation diversion barriers throughout Rich County, Utah, as part of a larger effort to identify and prioritize fish passage restoration efforts on both public and private land on the Bear River. In fiscal year 2011, survey results showed that 14 barrier treatments improved fish passage within Otter Creek and reconnected 13.8 miles of stream habitat. The fish passage barriers consisted of a mix of undersized and perched culverts as well as outmoded diversion sills that were upgraded to improve passage. Other project partners include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to the previous restoration effort, for the Birch Creek Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Riparian Habitat Improvement Project, approximately 60 acres of pinyon pine and juniper were hand cut and chipped to remove competition and allow for regeneration of water birch, coyote willow, and aspen. Improvement of Birch Creek riparian habitat is a priority for the Cedar City Field Office to benefit the Bonneville cutthroat trout.



A New Focus on Bison and Continuation of Several Wildlife Efforts

In 2011, the BLM-Henry Mountains Field Station partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State University, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and individual grazing permittees to initiate a bison sightability study of the Henry Mountains bison herd, one of the only free-roaming bison herds on BLM-administered lands. GPS and radio collars were attached to select bison within the herd to determine bison sightability when annual helicopter surveys are conducted. Survey data will be used to create a bison population model and to provide valuable information on bison habitat use and movement patterns. Also, the data will help the BLM target areas where water developments and habitat treatments could be effective in reducing bison/livestock interactions.



Also in 2011, the BLM continued funding Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative, a public/private partnership created to propose, implement, and monitor on-the-ground habitat maintenance, enhancement, and restoration to benefit big game, sage-grouse, migratory birds, and a number of state sensitive species, including the Bonneville cutthroat trout and pygmy rabbit. During fiscal year 2011, 32 on-the-ground treatments were completed that enhanced 30,873 acres of shrub-steppe, riparian, and pinyon-juniper habitats. The BLM's wildlife, range, weed, and fire/fuels programs actively participate in the partnership.

Lastly, the BLM-Utah field offices continued in fiscal year 2011 to monitor and maintain hundreds of previously constructed water developments for pronghorn antelope, desert bighorn sheep, upland game, and other wildlife species, and field offices continued a number of greater sage-grouse research projects around the state.

BLM-Utah Helps Restore Native Species through the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program

By providing leadership for the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program, the Utah State Office and its partners helped make at least three native plant species available for commercial development and use in restoration efforts on the Colorado Plateau. The program is making a difference throughout the Bureau by increasing the availability of native seeds from the Colorado Plateau to benefit degraded areas within the plateau.

As of August 2011, mountain brome, muttongrass, and Sandberg bluegrass are available, and at least 10 other species are in commercial development. Other efforts of the program in 2011 include genetic research and common garden studies to help restore native plant species to the Colorado Plateau.



Numerous partners have come together to work on the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program, including the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, University of Utah, Northern Arizona University, Southern Utah University, Uncompahgre Partnership, and The Nature Conservancy.

With Help from BLM, Maguire Daisy Delisted After 25 Years

In fiscal year 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the previously endangered Maguire daisy, which occurs principally on lands administered by the Price Field Office in central Utah. The BLM worked hard to ensure that conditions allowed for the species to be delisted, including monitoring existing populations, inventorying any additional populations, and assisting in the development of a post-delisting monitoring plan.

Also, cleanup efforts were implemented in camping areas near the daisy's habitat, and off-highway vehicle trails and other recreation sites were mapped so that necessary protection measures could be identified and implemented. This 25-year conservation effort is a true success story of partners coming together to recover a federally endangered species.

Also in 2011, with hopes of delisting the threatened Ute lady's tresses, a native orchid, members of the Vernal Field Office and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument performed habitat improvement actions with volunteers and other partners.





WYOMING



■ BLM-managed lands
■ BLM-administered minerals



WYOMING STATISTICS

Miles of fish habitat restored	140
Miles of fish habitat inventoried	255
Acres of fish habitat inventoried	240
Conservation planning for sensitive aquatic species (number of conservation agreements and strategies signed or in progress)	3
Acres of wildlife habitat treated for improvement	33,384
Dollars spent on wildlife conservation actions	Estimated \$2.6 million
Populations monitored to achieve cooperative wildlife management goals	908
Acres of wildlife habitat monitored for improvement	334,399
Number of recovery actions implemented for threatened and endangered species	54
Number of recovery plans prepared for threatened and endangered species	12
Acres of threatened and endangered species habitat monitored	1,357,229
Number of threatened and endangered species populations monitored	1,129
Number of restoration projects using native plants	771
Number of native plant seed collections	184
Number of BLM sensitive or rare plant species inventoried and monitored	15
Number of interns working on plant conservation program projects	7
Number of education projects related to fish, wildlife, plant, and/or threatened and endangered species conservation	26

Wyoming Fisheries Program Highlights

In fiscal year 2011, the BLM-Wyoming fisheries program focused on several projects and efforts, including inventorying and monitoring for a BLM sensitive species, aquatic invasive species prevention, and removal of fish barriers. The following examples provide more details on BLM-Wyoming's efforts.

The High Desert District conducted inventorying and monitoring of northern leatherside chub habitats to improve knowledge about

this BLM sensitive species. Under the BLM's Youth Initiative, students provided assistance on this project by helping the BLM improve potential habitats and ensure occupied habitats were monitored and conserved amid other BLM actions under the agency's multiple-use mission. This cooperative project was funded by the BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative and Brigham Young University.

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department partnered to implement statewide prevention

and monitoring efforts to reduce risks and prevent spread of aquatic invasive species. To assist their efforts, BLM-Wyoming provided funding and support in fiscal year 2011 to educate the public about aquatic invasive species threats and also to initiate a monitoring program to detect and prevent aquatic nuisance species introduction or spread into Wyoming waterways. Several BLM access sites were used for inspection and enforcement of recreational boating sanitation requirements.

The BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative provided fiscal year 2011 funding for a cooperative effort with Trout Unlimited and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to improve fish habitat. Fish passage barriers were removed, and a statewide inventory of BLM-managed lands was conducted to identify problem barrier locations for future modification or removal.

BLM-Wyoming Wildlife Program Focuses on Bats, Birds, and Big Game

The BLM-Wyoming wildlife program focused efforts in 2011 on bats, birds, and big game, and the following information provides details on these efforts.

Cooperative bat inventories and monitoring studies were conducted by BLM-Wyoming in conjunction with the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database partnership. The project focused on gathering bat occurrence, distribution, and habitat use information for large areas of central



Wyoming that are proposed for, and have a high potential for, wind energy development projects. Inventory and monitoring techniques using sonic detection recorders, mist netting, and seasonal surveying to gather bat information greatly increased the BLM's knowledge about bat populations and habitats in Wyoming. Due to the studies, new species occurrence locations have been identified, and echolocation call libraries have significantly improved the use of the new data to identify bat species. The project was funded by the BLM's wildlife and renewable energy programs, and the effort will continue into 2012.

Other wildlife program efforts in fiscal year 2011 focused on birds, including a statewide golden eagle and ferruginous hawk monitoring cooperative project with the U.S. Forest Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department using BLM renewable energy program funding. The Kemmerer Field Office participated in a raptor monitoring study with HawkWatch International, and the Cody Field Office partnered with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center on a golden eagle productivity study. Additionally, BLM-Wyoming engaged in cooperative projects with Partners in Flight, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to monitor other Wyoming bird species.

Several habitat improvement projects were undertaken in fiscal year 2011 by BLM-Wyoming to improve big game habitat and winter ranges. The projects include the Mallo Camp aspen regeneration project, Lander Front mule deer habitat enhancement project, Little Snake River aspen treatment project, Mill Creek aspen treatment project, and Wyoming front aspen treatment and fuels reduction project. Several of these projects were funded through the BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative.

Banner Year for Botany in Wyoming



The BLM-Wyoming plant conservation program had a busy year conducting rare plant surveys, working with the Seeds of Success and native plant materials programs, hiring and engaging record numbers of

youth, developing outreach efforts, and revising reclamation policy to encourage use of local, native plants.

Sensitive plant species were surveyed in southern Wyoming for the long-awned alkali wildrye (a grass species adapted to shifting sand dunes), stemless beardtongue, and small rockcress. New sites for all three species were found thanks to the BLM's long-term partnership with the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

The Wyoming Seeds of Success program continued its dramatic increase in collections, training, participation, and youth involvement with 184 new plant collections and 14 collecting teams. These statistics help illustrate the activity and momentum of the Seeds of Success program to collect, conserve, and develop native plant materials for stabilizing, rehabilitating, and restoring lands. Some current examples of ways BLM-Wyoming is using the native plant materials is the reclamation of energy development sites and bentonite mine sites, with this latter example in partnership with the University of Wyoming.

The BLM-Wyoming plant conservation program engaged record numbers of youth in fiscal year 2011, including interns, 12 weeks of participation from the Youth Conservation Corps from 4 states, and Native American and middle school students that helped with native seed collection work. The plant conservation program and interns greatly improved outreach by overhauling the program's public website and producing two brochures that highlight the program. The program also participated in other outreach activities including Frontier Days and the Wyoming State Parks Summer Slam. Graduate-level lectures on the Seeds of Success Program and high-elevation reclamation provided additional outreach to university partners. Lastly, the program provided plant identification assistance and training throughout the fiscal year.



Threatened and Endangered Species Program Highlights

The BLM-Wyoming threatened and endangered species program participated in several partnerships in fiscal year 2011 to aid in the recovery and conservation of several threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

For the animal species, BLM-Wyoming continued its participation with grizzly bear working groups to conserve the grizzly bear within the Yellowstone ecosystem and on BLM-administered lands. Also, the BLM conducted surveys for the endangered black-footed ferret and mapped the occupancy of recovery areas. The BLM continued habitat inventory work for the endangered Wyoming toad and other amphibian species. Lastly, BLM-Wyoming invested a great deal of time and money into greater sage-grouse conservation and management in cooperation with the State of Wyoming, local working groups, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and numerous other partners to help prevent the species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

For the plant species, surveys efforts continued for endangered blowout penstemon habitats through the partnership with the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, helping to locate three new population sites in southern Wyoming within the Rawlins Field Office area. Seed germination research on blowout penstemon also continued. In addition, the BLM's ongoing work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database will develop a recovery and management plan for the threatened desert yellowhead.

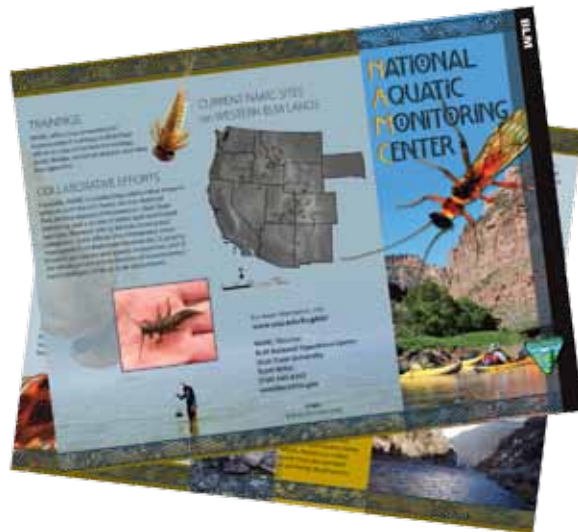


NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

NOC Focuses on Aquatic Resources and Monitoring

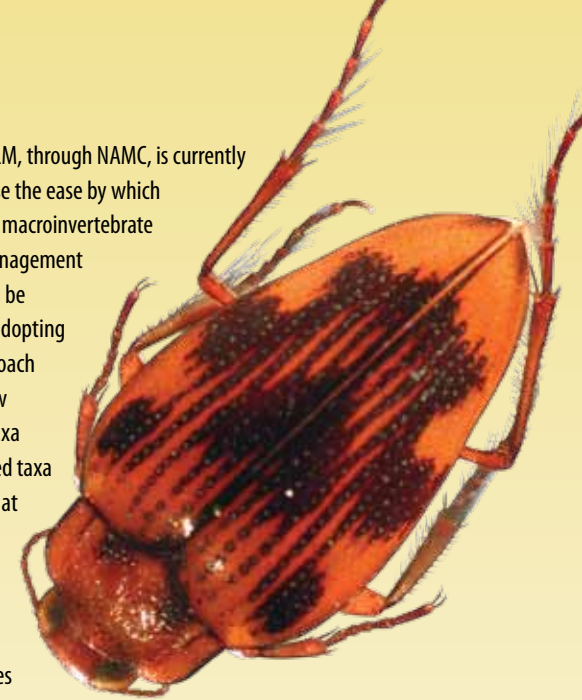
The National Operations Center's (NOC's) Branch of Assessment and Monitoring aquatic program had a very active and collaborative 2011, with numerous developments and contributions toward meeting the programmatic goals of the wildlife, fisheries, and threatened and endangered species programs. A primary focus this fiscal year was integration with other aquatic programs across the agency, including the riparian and soil, water, and air programs. The NOC started and continues to work on developing an aquatic component to the BLM's assessment, inventory, and monitoring program, which will play a critical role in achieving the monitoring initiatives outlined in the BLM's "Winning the Challenges of the Future: A Road Map for Success in 2016."

Most significantly, the NOC focused several efforts regarding the National Aquatic Monitoring Center (NAMC or the "Buglab"). NAMC is



a cooperative agreement between the BLM and Utah State University which seeks to encourage and foster scientifically sound watershed monitoring programs on public lands. In 2011, the NOC's Branch of Assessment and Monitoring hired a new director for NAMC, and through this cooperative agreement, the BLM worked on a variety of projects in 2011, including a review of the BLM's rapid ecoregional assessments, with NAMC providing data for more than 7,500 aquatic macroinvertebrate samples to assess freshwater biological integrity; development and implementation of field office training in freshwater bioassessment; and the processing of more than 2,000 aquatic macroinvertebrate samples for the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and other federal partners.

In addition, the BLM, through NAMC, is currently working to increase the ease by which managers can use macroinvertebrate data to inform management decisions. This will be accomplished by adopting an analytical approach that measures how closely sampled taxa match the expected taxa predicted to occur at regional reference conditions. This approach is being applied across the entire United States by multiple state and federal agencies and thus provides a common currency for assessing freshwater biological integrity. The BLM is working to provide this information for all samples submitted to the lab for processing.



The BLM also has been involved with several projects to design and implement aquatic monitoring programs to support field office-scale initiatives incorporating aquatic macroinvertebrates. Some projects include the quantification of prey resource availability for migratory shorebirds in Colorado's Lara wetlands; monitoring to detect impacts of gas development throughout the Roan Plateau in Colorado; assessing



the impacts of flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam on aquatic resources across the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service lands; and the design and implementation of probabilistic surveys to determine the status and trend of BLM freshwater resources throughout Utah and northern California.

Lastly, the NOC's Branch of Assessment and Monitoring published two brochures in fiscal year 2011 to highlight the work of NAMC and the BLM fisheries programs. One brochure describes the BLM fisheries program and the many conservation partnerships which focus on habitat conservation and restoration, monitoring, and fish passage improvements. Another brochure focused on NAMC, providing an in-depth description of the cooperative agreement between the BLM and Utah State University.

Partnerships Key in Mapping Wildlife Habitat

In fiscal year 2011, the NOC continued its operational, technical, and analytical support of the BLM wildlife and threatened and

endangered species programs. One way the NOC did this is by participating in numerous partnerships to map wildlife habitat on BLM-administered land.

To begin, the NOC partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to map critical habitat, which is essential for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. The NOC also partnered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to map elk habitat, the National Wild Turkey Federation to map wild turkey habitat, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to map mule deer and bighorn sheep habitat.

The NOC provided additional mapping and analysis expertise on a variety of smaller projects. Included are assessments of wildlife habitat in relation to BLM wild horse and burro herd management areas, high wind potential areas, National Landscape Conservation System units, oil and gas development, solar energy, oil shale and tar sands development, among many other multiple uses. Additionally, the NOC provided extensive support for greater sage-grouse habitat mapping

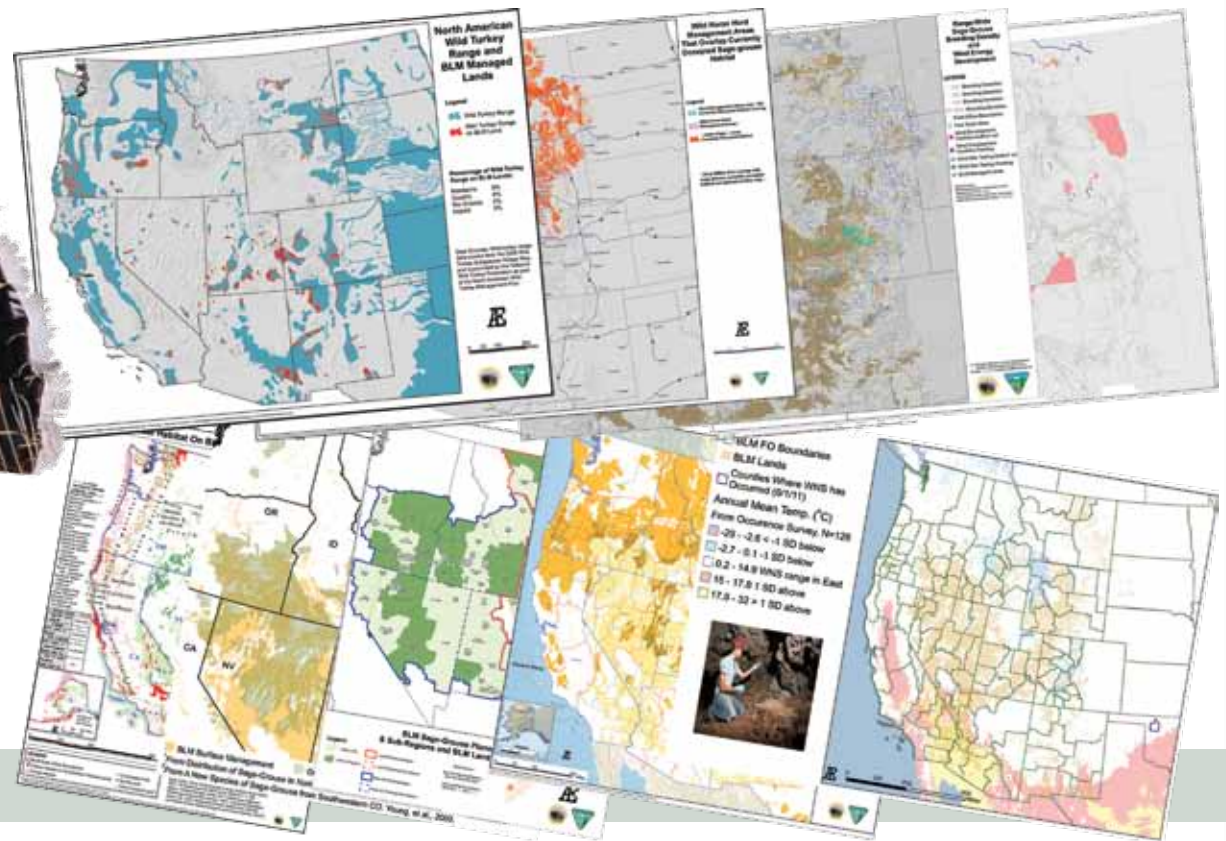
and analysis, as well as a compilation of field office and state office wildlife data.

In another partnership, the NOC is collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service to assess the potentiality of bighorn sheep-occupied habitat co-occurring with BLM and U.S. Forest Service domestic sheep and goat grazing. This partner collaboration also includes cooperation with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to model bighorn sheep source habitat, and the NOC continues ongoing work to incorporate the Western Governors' Association's Wildlife Council Crucial Habitat Assessment Tools (CHATs) into wildlife habitat analyses and BLM rapid ecoregional assessments. The NOC is assisting with project management and review of BLM rapid ecoregional assessments, with a strong wildlife component in all of the current assessments.

Lastly, the NOC is currently developing a threatened and endangered species expenditure database that will also include the tracking of BLM special status species.



Steve Sharp, National Wild Turkey Federation



CROSS-PROGRAM FEATURES

BLM INITIATES NATIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANNING STRATEGY

In July 2011, the BLM announced a “National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy” to provide for the conservation of greater sage-grouse and its habitat. This effort followed a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in February 2010 that found the listing of the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act “warranted but precluded” by other higher priority listing decisions. A major factor in the service’s finding identified the BLM’s inadequate regulatory mechanisms, specifically its land use plans. The strategy spans 10 western states and covers 68 BLM planning units.

The BLM issued a notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statements to incorporate greater sage-grouse conservation measures into land use plans on December 9, 2011. Conservation measures will be incorporated into land use plans through plan amendments or revisions. The BLM expects to release records of decision for these amendments and revisions by the end of fiscal year 2014. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to make its final listing decision on greater sage-grouse in fiscal year 2015. The conservation measures that the BLM plans to incorporate into land use plans should provide regulatory mechanisms on BLM lands to ensure the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and its habitat on public lands and prevent the species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

On December 27, 2011, the BLM issued a national instruction memorandum that provides immediate (interim) direction for the management of greater sage-grouse habitat while the BLM works on amending and revising land use plans across the range of the greater sage-grouse. Another instruction memorandum was issued on the

same day that provides consistent protection measures for greater sage-grouse that will be incorporated into one or more alternatives in the land use planning process.

PIONEERING PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

In 2010, the BLM began partnering with the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment (The Heinz Center) to develop a set of indicators that will allow managers at multiple levels to track the progress of fish and wildlife management activities on BLM lands and other key western landscapes. The project brings together wildlife monitoring experts and land managers from a wide variety of agencies, organizations, and institutions for a series of collaborative workshops.

Workshops are held on a state-by-state basis in order to take advantage of the partnerships that support state wildlife action plans and to correspond with existing jurisdictional boundaries (state wildlife agencies and BLM state offices). To date, workshops have been completed in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming. The next workshops are targeted for Alaska, California, and New Mexico.

In each workshop, participants identify three to five landscape-scale conservation “targets,” which are typically ecosystems, ecoregions, or large-scale vegetation communities. Threats, stressors, conservation actions, and desired conditions are identified for each of these targets, and a visual diagram is developed that shows the causal linkages among these elements. Finally, a set of indicators is identified that could be used to measure status or trends in the key ecosystems, states, and processes. A list of ongoing monitoring efforts which track these indicators has been compiled.

The project is focused on “outcome” or “big picture” measures that directly relate to threats, stressors, species, and habitats. Monitoring these variables tracks the cumulative impacts of management actions as well as the effects of threats and stressors on a large scale. Directly tracking threats, stressors, species, and habitats is especially important for answering questions from Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the public who want to know how fish and wildlife resources are faring as a result of federal management activities.

As workshops progress, common targets and indicators are emerging. Sagebrush habitat and riparian systems have been identified by most of the states as conservation priorities. Common status indicators for these targets have been presence/absence of invasive species, stream channel alteration, instream flow, groundwater utilization, fire frequency and extent, and vegetation and animal species diversity and composition. Monitoring for many of these indicators already occurs in most states, either through BLM methods, such as the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy, or through state or federal wildlife agencies.

As the BLM moves to improve the reporting of management activities through updated performance measures, these workshops and the associated reports will be key to identifying core indicators. For more information, visit www.wildlife.heinzctrinfo.net/.

AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

The BLM fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation programs are important components of the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative. In 2011, the programs supported the initiative by serving on a team to identify actions that will help further the goals of the initiative. Specifically, the programs funded on-the-ground projects that focus on fish and wildlife species and habitats within a large landscape context designed to conserve and restore ecosystems. The team also prioritized restoration actions that will connect and enable youth to work and volunteer in the outdoors.

HEALTHY LANDS INITIATIVE

In fiscal year 2011, \$3.2 million in funds were provided through the BLM’s healthy landscapes program to support BLM fisheries, wildlife,

threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation projects. These projects help implement restoration and recovery actions on a landscape scale and across multiple jurisdictions to benefit fish and wildlife species, habitats, and native plant communities. The BLM's healthy landscapes program is a major effort to restore and improve the health and productivity of western public lands. Funds provided through this program are used in collaboration with funds provided by partners, including public agencies, tribes, private landowners, and nongovernmental organizations. These partnerships are essential to the success of the healthy landscapes program and associated projects.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

The BLM fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation programs worked closely with the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) to fund fish and wildlife species and habitat work related to wild and scenic rivers and national historic trails. The NLCS is an important component of the BLM's threatened and endangered species program. More than 240 listed species and approximately 450 rare plants occur on BLM-administered lands, and 155 of these species occur only within NLCS-designated units. An additional 114 species have a large percentage (greater than 50 percent) of all known occurrences found within NLCS-designated units. Furthermore, of the 8.2 million acres of critical habitat designated on BLM-administered lands, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, 5.5 million acres (or 67 percent) occur within the NLCS.

In fiscal year 2011, the NLCS research support program funded multiple projects that focused on fish, wildlife, and plant species and habitat. In terms of recovery, for example, most national monuments, national conservation areas, and similar designations are taking action to support threatened and endangered species. Actions include riparian area restoration, lead exposure reduction, area and seasonal restrictions, invasive species treatments, and road decommissioning.

CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

The BLM's Challenge Cost Share program continues to work with partners to implement conservation actions that benefit public

lands. Through the program, every dollar of federal investment in conservation is matched with more than \$2 in nonfederal partner investment. In prior years, a broad spectrum of conservation actions have been implemented, ranging from rare plant conservation to fisheries habitat restoration to monitoring migratory birds. In 2011, the program focused on projects with partners to conserve greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat. Since working on bighorn sheep conservation in 1985 during the program's inception, the program has expanded to work with a wide spectrum of conservation partners across the United States. The BLM fish, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation programs will continue to work with nongovernment conservation interests through this program to optimize and maintain partnerships and collaborative conservation.

LINDA SIEBERT CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2011

At the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in March 2011, the BLM presented the 2011 Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award to Patrick Coffin of the BLM-Nevada Elko District. The Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award recognizes a current or retired BLM employee who has significantly contributed to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and/or botanic resources over the course of their career and who exemplifies the characteristics and professional dedication of one of the BLM's finest biologists, Linda Siebert. Coffin was recognized for his long and productive career that spanned 5 decades and three agencies (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Nevada, and BLM) while working to improve watersheds and the recovery of redband and Lahontan cutthroat trout.

OTHER BLM CONSERVATION AWARDS

The **Conservation Project Award** recognizes development and implementation of a joint U.S. Forest Service/BLM project with outstanding conservation accomplishments for fish, wildlife, and/or native plants and their habitat on public lands. In 2011, this award went to the BLM-New Mexico Socorro Field Office for its work with partners on the East Magdalena Landscape Restoration Project in central New Mexico.

The **Conservation Partner Award** recognizes a conservation organization or an individual representing a conservation organization for demonstrating sustained dedication, leadership, and commitment to work collaboratively to build partnerships that promote sound land management practices and the conservation of wildlife, fisheries, and/or native plant resources that depend on U.S. Forest Service and BLM public lands. In 2011, this award went to the Salmon Valley Stewardship.

The **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Elk Conservation Award** recognizes people and projects in three categories: individual achievement, habitat enhancement, and partnership. In 2011, awards went to the BLM-Wyoming Rawlins Field Office for habitat enhancement and to Jim Wolf in the BLM-Wyoming Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Office for individual achievement. An award for partnership was not given in 2011.

The **Mule Deer Foundation – Mule Deer Conservation Award** recognizes a BLM field office or employee(s) for development and implementation of a project that exemplifies excellence in mule deer and/or black-tailed deer conservation. In 2011, the award went to John Hansen in the BLM-New Mexico Farmington Field Office.

The **Extraordinary Action in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation Award** is presented by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. In 2011, the award went to the BLM-Oregon/Washington Coos Bay District Office.



THANK YOU PARTNERS!

The BLM fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and plant conservation programs would like to sincerely thank all of our partners for providing support to conserve natural resources on America's public lands. Since we have so many wonderful partners, we may have inadvertently missed a few. Also, many thanks to the countless volunteers who donate their valuable time to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants.

Agricultural Research Service
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Fly Fishers
Alaska Natural Heritage Program
American Bird Conservancy
American Botanical Council
American Conservation Experience
American Fisheries Society
American Forests
American Hiking Society
American Public Gardens Association
American Rivers
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Sportfishing Association
American Wildlands
AmeriCorps
Amigos Bravos
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Native Plant Society
Avian Science Center
Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.
Bat Conservation International
Bear Trust International
Berry Botanic Garden
Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
Boise State University
Bok Tower Gardens
Boone and Crockett Club
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (U.S.)
Botanical Society of America
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Brigham Young University
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Buffalo Bill Historical Center
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Bureau of Reclamation
California Department of Fish and Game
California Native Plant Society
California Natural Diversity Database
Carson Valley Chukar Club
Center for Plant Conservation
Chicago Botanic Garden

City of Eugene, Oregon
City of Santa Fe, New Mexico
City of Twin Falls, Idaho
Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado Natural Heritage Program
Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
ConocoPhillips-Alaska
Conservation Force
Copper River Watershed Project
Craighead Beringia South
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Desert Bighorn Council
Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
Desert Research Institute
Desert Tortoise Council
Ducks Unlimited
Earth Sangha
Eastern Illinois University
Ecological Society of America
Ecotrust
Fairfax County, Virginia
FishAmerica Foundation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Future Fisherman Foundation
Garden Club of America
Glennallen High School
Grasslands National Park (Canada)
Great Basin Bird Observatory
Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project
Great Basin Restoration Initiative
Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership
Hawks Aloft
HawkWatch International
Idaho Botanic Garden
Idaho Conservation Data Center
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Native Plant Society
Institute for Applied Ecology
Izaak Walton League of America
Kenny Lake School

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Partnership
Maggie Creek Ranch
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana Native Plant Society
Montana Natural Heritage Program
Montana State University
Montana Trout Unlimited
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Audubon Society
National Cattleman's Beef Association
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Fish Habitat Action Plan
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Park Service
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trappers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
Native American tribal organizations
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
Native Plant Society of Oregon
Native Village of Unalakleet
Natural Areas Association
Natural Heritage New Mexico
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Natural Resources Defense Council
NatureServe
Navajo Nation
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Native Plant Society
Nevada Natural Heritage Program
Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Newmont Mining Corporation
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
North Carolina Botanical Garden

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
North Pacific Research Board
Northern Arizona University
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
Nushagak-Mulchatna Wood-Tikchik Land Trust
Okanogan Conservation District
Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Eagle Foundation
Oregon Hunters Association
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management
Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
People for Native Ecosystems
Pheasants Forever
Phoenix Union High School District
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
Pollinator Partnership
Pope and Young Club
Portland Water Bureau
Powder River Basin Restoration
PPL Montana
Prairie Dog Advocacy Watch Group
Project Healing Waters
Public Lands Council
Public Lands Foundation
Pure Fishing, Inc.
Raptor Research Foundation
Raptor View Research Institute
Recreation Boating and Fishing Foundation
Red Butte Garden, University of Utah
Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership
River Network
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Ruffed Grouse Society
Sandy River Basin Partners
Sandy River Basin Watershed Council
Sierra Club
Sierra Pacific Industries
Smithsonian, National Museum of Natural History
Society for Conservation Biology
Society for Ecological Restoration
Society for Range Management
Society of American Foresters
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
South Dakota State University
Southern Utah University
Special K Ranch
Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
St. Joe Company
Student Conservation Association
Taos County Weed Control Committee
Teton Science Schools

The Conservation Fund
The Freshwater Trust
The Middle River Group, LLC
The Nature Conservancy
The Peregrine Fund
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
The Xerces Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
TS Ranch
Twenty-five Ranch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Uncompahgre Partnership
United States Botanic Garden
University of Alaska
University of Calgary
University of Montana
University of Nevada
University of Utah
University of Wyoming
Utah Conservation Data Center
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Native Plant Society
Utah Natural Heritage Program
Utah State University
Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Native Plant Society
Watchable Wildlife, Inc.
Wellwood Nature Preserve
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Western Governors' Wildlife Council
Western Native Trout Initiative
Western States Land Commissioners Association
Wild Salmon Center
Wild Sheep Foundation
WildEarth Guardians
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Habitat Council
Wildlife Management Institute
Williams Company
World Wildlife Fund
Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative
Wyoming Native Plant Society
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
XS Platinum, Inc.
Youth Conservation Corps (various states)
Zoological Society of San Diego

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